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CROATIA EYES ON TITLE

BY DAVID JACK

SYDNEY CROATIA, with the NSW Ampol Cup safely locked in their trophy room, have their eyes set firmly on the Olympic Airways National League title.

There was a huge feeling of optimism about what the coming season may hold for player-coach Vedran Rozic and his side as they showered after beating Inter Monaro 1 - 0 on Sunday.

"What price the NSL crown to follow this Ampol Cup win?" That's the question I put to Tony Basic, the delighted president of Sydney Croatia.

He swept a finger round the dressing room and said: "Look at these players. They're all very optimistic. I think we must have a big chance for the title."

While the Sydney Croatians were celebrating their narrow win over Monaro, their friends in Victoria were also in high spirits over the weekend.

Melbourne Croatia beat Heidelberg 2 - 1 in the Buffalo Cup Final, making it a weekend for celebration among TWO Croatian communities!

Next Sunday in Melbourne the two Croatian teams meet in an interstate challenge game with a big attendance being tipped.

Sydney Croatia were undeniably the better side in their win against Monaro yet were never able to relax - with only one goal in the match.

The winning goal came from ZjelkoJurin in the 37th minute when the former Yugoslavian second division player burst through on the wing to slip the ball under goalkeeper Steve Hoszowski's body.

It was destined to be the only goal of the game although Jurin might have scored another in the second half when he shot over the bar.

Shane Clinch also had an opportunity to score as did substitute John Kero but those chances were not taken.

Monaro's goalscoring chances were severely restricted by the excellent Croatia defence in which Vedran Rozic and Marijn Kovacic were in super form.

The Queanbeyan side had two telling raids, one when Ian Wotherspoon

Continued on page 2

MARK JANKOVICS

BAD BLOOD

..Nazur, P.Holmes, R.Niolic, J.Ward (og)) defeated lawarra 0

Referee: A.Christorou

Linesmen: G.Turner d G.Parisatis

We have heard nothin officially from the Coun cil about this and it is little disturbing to read i first in the press.

"Alcoholic drinks ar not sold at the ground b the club. But we have a

BLACKTOWN CITY, still very upset about Mark Jankovics re-signing for Marconi instead of joining the Demons, promise: "You haven't heard the last of that business!"

Peter Thorne, secretary of Blacktown, claims Jankovics has signed for two clubs - Marconi and Blacktown.

"At the very least, the player has acted unprofessionally. My club is looking into the legal aspects of the case," said Thorne.

"When Mark changed his mind about joining Blacktown and withdrew his transfer appeal to resign for Marconi, he should at least have come back to talk to Blacktown. My club is very disappointed about the way things turned out."

Jankovics, however denies that he did anything wrong.

"At no time would Blacktown tell me what they were prepared to pay for my transfer - even though I asked Peter Thorne several times," he claimed.

"When I signed for Blacktown it was made very clear that it was a provisional signing and both the club and I agreed the agreement would be null and void and would be torn up if there was a hitch in the deal.

"Look at my situation. If Blacktown had refused to pay what Marconi were asking, this could have left me in limbo all season.

"After all, Marconi were quite entitled to go out and sign another one or two players and this would have frozen me out completely.

"All I tried to do was look after my own interests and I do not see this as being wrong," added Jankovics.

It will be interesting to see if Blacktown do, indeed, pursue the Jankovics matter from here.

They certainly do not appear willing to forget it.

The Editor

PREMIER Neville Wran, Federal Sports Minister John Brown and NSW Sports Minister Michael Cleary were the real winners at the royally-patronised opening of Parramatta Stadium a few days ago.

The big three proved that where there is a will, there is a way. Between them, they ensured that Parramatta would get its magnificent new football stadium.

That was not easy. There was a strong wowser lobby doing everything possible to prevent the stadium being built.

Messrs Wran, Brown and Cleary revealed great strength of purpose in overcoming all those moaners.

The politicians may have been taking a risk, possibly losing votes at any forthcoming elections, but, for once, this was not the paramount consideration.

Indeed, for every disgruntled voter who did not want the new stadium, there were probably another six who did.

So the decision to press on with Parramatta Stadium could be more of a vote-catcher than a vote-loser.

At an official reception hosted by Premier Wran after the opening of the stadium, the NSW Premier made a firm commitment to press om with Sydney's next major football project — the new Sports Ground — with minimum delay.

Premier Wran warned his audience in the Parramatta Leagues club auditorium not to listen to all the knockers who are trying to halt work on the Sports Ground.

"I can promise you work will start there next month — in just six weeks time," he said.

The anti-stadium lobby at the Sports Ground will be even more intense than at Parramatta Stadium: be sure residents of Moore Park, Paddington and such districts will issue dire threats about voting Liberal next time they visit the ballot box.

We must hope the NSW Government is not swayed by those threats. And judging by the way Premier Wran is talking, he and his colleagues are determined to stand by their pledge to rebuild the archaic Sports Ground.

It is not often we get the opportunity to say nice things about politicians but, after the impressive show put on at Parramatta Stadium last week, it is only right to give praise where praise is due.

The Soccer fraternity, however, is in danger of being left somewhat out in the cold.

Rugby League treasure.

Rugby Union will not complain. In a few weeks, it will have its own excellent headquarters at Concord Oval and, apart from an occasional big crowd-puller like a Test against the All Blacks, will have no need to play at Sydney Sports Ground or the SCG.

The favours handed to Soccer by the present NSW Government have been largely bestowed on Valentine Park at Parklea.

That is excellent for the improvement of Junior Soccer but it does leave the seniors stranded with nowhere to go.

The NSW Soccer Federation and, indeed, the Australian Soccer Federation, should not sit back complacently and accept that the round ball code will never have sole use of its own stadium within reasonable distance of the GPO.

Once the rah-rahs settle in at their plush Concord Oval, it would be nice to think the next problem to be tackled by our sports-minded political leaders involved a "home" for Soccer.

Some weeks ago, AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY made a plea for the Soccer Federations and government representatives to take another look at the possibility of developing Henson Park.

We still await action on that suggestion.

BAZ — UNIQUE TALENT

AUSTRALIAN footballers, unfortunately, seldom come along like Inter Monaro's incredibly talented Sebastian Giampaolo. He is unique.

"Bazza" has always had the potential.

Old time footballing folk in the national capital will tell you he's the finest talent to ever have come out of the ACT.

Even his severest critics, however, have been silenced by his splendid Ampol Cup form which, at the time of writing, has seen this unfancied Inter Monaro team through to the pre season final against Sydney Croatia.

Baz is unique for many reasons even though he finally seems destined to fulfil the lavish praise heaped upon him over the years.

Which is incredible, considering he never wanted to play our game let alone become one of our leading players.

"I was dragged into the game by a mate when I was 13," says Giampaolo of his first footballing days.

"Before that it was other footballing codes as well as baseball, cricket and the usual horsing around that most kids get up to when they are first into their teens.

"I was never really interested in Soccer."

Which is unique for a youngster born in Canberra from newly arrived southern Italian parents.

Giampaolo is also unique in that he could start playing the game so late in life yet possess such outstanding natural talent.

After kicking off at 13, it all started to happen quickly for Giampaolo.

He went immediately from his Canberra North club to the various age group representative teams up until the under 16's.

Then it was to Inter Monaro's State League team, followed by spells at Canberra City and Leichhardt in the NSL before coming back home to Inter Monaro for the 1984 season.

It was no coincidence that Giampaolo's return saw Inter Monaro take out the State League and win promotion to the NSL last year where, after a disastrous start, the Queanbeyan outfit finished better than nearly every other team to finish the season creditably.

And 1986 sees Inter Monaro and Giampaolo destined for bigger and better things.

"We are better prepared this year and we've got something to aim for," says Baz, referring to the club's ambition to avoid the 10 team cut and stay in the big league next year.

Giampaolo gives most of the credit for his new lease of life to Inter Monaro coach, Frank Maccaronne.

"Frank is like a father to our players — the fatherly image, the respect, the works, yet he has the right discipline at the right moment.

"Another reason is that Frank has given me a freer role this year which is paying dividends not only for me but more importantly for the team.

"Also the signing of Steve Winn and Marko Perinovic from Canberra City has taken a lot of the pressure off me up front.

"Last year it was simply a matter of opposing sides kicking me to bits and they stopped our attack.

"This year they've got to look after Steve and Marko and that gives me more room to operate."

Giampaolo is obviously a wiser, more responsible and mature person nowadays.

He is well settled into his Melba home with wife Teresa and daughters Angela, 2, and six month old Daniella.

He's employed by the Department of Aviation financial section and like most who live in Canberra doesn't intend leaving the place.

Watching Giampaolo play and talking to him off the field is a surprising and refreshing experience.

Tremendously articulate Giampaolo has some pertinent things to say about himself and Australian Soccer.

On himself:

"I've grown up in recent years and take the training and the games seriously now."

On Australian Soccer:

"There's not enough incentive here for kids. Let's face it, the Australian public doesn't support the game at all.

"Take out the Croatian and Greek supporters and who do you have left?"

On his Socceroo ambitions:

"I've played twice for Australia — against Greece under Jimmy Shoulder and against New Zealand under Rudi Gutendorf.

"I have no ambition to play for Australia. Why? I don't know. Frank (Arok) has his own type of players and I'm not one of them.

"Even so, if I was picked to play for Australia I wouldn't be interested."

On the 14 team NSL for 1987:

"It's a disaster. A 14 team league crucifies 10 other clubs, their players and supporters who have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the national league over the past 10 years.

"What happens to them?"

On referees:

"Look, I've tried refereeing social games and I have full sympathy for referees.

"Yet, while I admire a few in this country they simply don't protect players.

"The game here is too rough — players kick one another to bits at the half way line which is something you don't see anywhere else in the world."

And the future?

"I feel I have a lot to offer the game and that will all happen here in Canberra. Firstly because I'm settled here and secondly because there is no better place to live."

Canberra residents, and Soccer fans, would all agree with that.

— *KEN HEALEY*

'If I was picked to play for Australia I wouldn't be interested' — BAZ GIAMPAOLO.

MELBOURNE CROATIA WIN CUP

MELBOURNE CROATIA became the 1986 Buffalo Cup champions when they downed an ordinary Heidelberg United 2-1.

In losing the match Heidelberg lost the chance to win the Cup for the second successive time, whilst Croatia's win was revenge for last year's loss to the same club.

Heidelberg were unable to play to their strengths as Croatia outclassed them and in doing so they showed that they must be one of the strongest team in the Southern Division of the NSL.

The scoring was opened by Croatia's Jim Campbell, an ex-Heidelberg player who beat international goalie, Jeff Olver with a fine blast.

Heidelberg picked themselves up and put together some dynamic play in search of the equaliser, which came in the 44th minute when Alan Hunter put away a penalty.

The penalty was awarded when Tony Curcio fouled Paul Tzintzis inside the area.

When Heidelberg lost central defender George Christopoulos they lost much composure at the back and were punished for it when in the 68th minute Melbourne Croatia's Luka Bonacic scored. The Heidelberg players protested in vain for they were of the opinion the striker had fouled goalkeeper, Olver.

Continued from front page

had a good run and a shot that was saved and soon after when a Bas Giampaolo cross was cleared off the line by Rozic.

Otherwise they did not threaten Croatia.

Paying tribute to the winners, Monaro coach Frank Maccarone commented: "This was really the first hard match we've had this year."

So now Sydney Croatia are cofidently setting their sights on the NSL crown, shrugging aside the huge loss of Jim Patikas to Greec's AEK.

It is true to say Patikas has hardly been missed. But I'm sure he will be when we get down to the serious business of the long hard grind of a full season in the NSL.

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THIS WEEK'S SOCCER BEAUTY is the beautiful ALI LYNWOOD, who certainly has a big year ahead of her!

Ali was chosen as a finalist in last years Playboy Playmate of The Year Contest after she appeared in one of their issues.

It isn't difficult to see why the response was absolutely fantastic.

Photo: Graeme Fletcher

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SCRAPES INTO THIRD PLACE

SYDNEY OLYMPIC with a lethargic display of football, managed to scrape into third position in the NSW 1986 Ampol Cup when they defeated Melita-Eagles 1-0 at the St George Stadium.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Olympic who were the form team during the Ampol Cup series with sparkling, fast attacking Soccer, disappointed their fans with a lack-lustre performance against Melita.

The only good news for the Olympic fans was that their English right-back, Martyn Rogers, who had gone back to England during the off-season, made a surprise return to Australia last Saturday.

Rogers came on for the second half and looked reasonable, considering his long flight from the UK.

Melita's pacey-striker, John Foxman, scared the daylights out of Olympic in the 13th minute when he busted through and tried to chip Olympic's goalkeeper, Billy Londos.

Londos however stretched upwards and managed to knock down the danger.

Within a minute after this near miss, Olympic attacked strongly back down the other end as their new signing, Scottish striker, Stuart Stevenson, hit the Melita crossbar with his header.

Melita's back four of Greg McCoy, Col McAusland, Kenny Wilson and Craig Williams, more than held their own against Olympic's deadly trio of front-runners, Simon Brandt, Stevenson and Chris Kalantzis.

Marshall Soper played for most of the game in the midfield, whilst Alex Lampropoulos, this season normally at left-back, was reverted to his correct centre-back spot.

With Melita holding a somewhat dispirited Olympic to 0-0 at the break, the stage was set for a possible upset result.

But the ever-reliable, tough-tackling Gary Phillips, dispelled such fears in the 57th minute.

Phillips came in fast to dispossess Melita's Birel Sertbas in a tackle.

The ball fell free and Phillips, from 28 metres out quickly lobbed Melita's goalkeeper, Dragan Pupovac, with the ball sailing neatly into the net.

Eight minutes later, Melita's striker, Warren Dalton hit the crossbar at the other end

With less than a minute left on the clock, Melita's Andre Callinan should have equalised as he made a mess of his shot at the target with the goal at his mercy.

Make no mistake, Melita did have the chances to take this match and really cause an upset, but they failed and allowed Olympic to grab the Ampol cheque for third place-getter.

Best performers for Olympic were Phillips, Londos and Simon Brandt whilst for Melita, Sertbas and Lenny Vial.

REFEREE: R.Lorenc.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Londos, Phillips, Lampropoulos (Rogers 46th), Dakos, Stankovic, Burke, Raskopoulos, Soper (Estavilo 62nd), Brandt, Stevenson, Kalantzis.

MELITA: Pupovac, McCoy, McAusland, Wilson, Williams, Serbas, Stone, Vial, Meerbani, Dalton, Foxman.

MINI AMPOL CUP FINAL

MARCONI TRIUMPHS OVER ILLAWARRA

HIGHLY-SKILLED Marconi achieved what their 1985 counterparts could not do — they won the NSW Mini-Ampol Cup.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

Last year Marconi lost to Blacktown City in a replay, but this time it was an entirely different story.

They led 2-0 at the break and ran away from their hard working Illawarra opponents to finish the scoring at 7-0.

It is a difficult task indeed to pick out particular Marconi players in a very fine team effort, but certainly there was none better than the dark-haired midfielder Andrew Nazur.

He controlled the ball beautifully in the build-ups and netted a second-half goal.

Central striker John Cam was very difficult to hold; Paul Richardson kept a great ball supply out to the right flank, where Roman Nikolic had a veritable picnic.

An early cross from the right by Nikolic had Illawarra under a deal of pressure.

Goalkeeper Derek Noffke went full stretch and the ball landed on the roof of the net.

Illawarra pressed but Marconi went a goal ahead in the fifth minute.

Marconi worked the ball across field, Nikolic sprinted ahead and got a touch to a ball that was officially recorded as an own goal against Illawarra left-back Joel Ward.

Illawarra stayed in the match for the rest of the half with big defender Anthony Timillero helping to break up many of the Marconi attacks.

They however were in strife when John Cam broke through to score after a brilliant solo run right on half-time.

It did not take long for the clever little Marconi team to take a strangle hold on the game in the second half.

While Illawarra struggled bravely the goals went in with absolute regularity and reached seven by the final whistle.

Final score, Marconi 7 (J.Cam 2, P. Richardson, A.Nazur, P.Holmes, R.Nikolic, J.Ward (og)) defeated Illawarra 0

Referee: A.Christoforou

Linesmen: G.Turner and G.Parisatis

AMPOL CUP WINNERS

1958	Canterbury Marrickville	1972	St. George Budapest
1959	Prague	1973	Hakoah Eastern Suburbs
1960	Budapest St. George	1974	A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt
1961	Prague	1975	St. George Budapest
1962	Prague	1976	Western Suburbs
1963	Yugal	1977	Avala
1964	Prague	1978	Sutherland
1965	Prague	1979	Sydney City
1966	A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt	1980	Sydney Olympic
1967	St. George Budapest	1981	Sutherland Shire
1968	Hakoah	1982	St. George B.S.C.
1969	Prague	1983	Marconi-Fairfield
1970	A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt	1984	St. George B.S.C.
1971	Western Suburbs	1985	Blacktown City

ST GEORGE FACES EVICTION THREAT

BY DAVID JACK

SOCCER spectators at St George Stadium will go on the wagon at matches in future.

Saints are in danger of being kicked off the ground because liquor is sold in the trophy room, contravening a ruling in the club's Council lease.

The threat to cancel the lease was reported in a local newspaper, following a meeting of Rockdale Council.

When I asked Saints Soccer president Les Bordacs to comment, he said: "We have heard nothing officially from the Council about this and it is a little disturbing to read it first in the press.

"Alcoholic drinks are not sold at the ground by the club. But we have a number of willing workers in a Supporters' Club who raise money this way.

"These people have been warned that they are not permitted to sell liquor at the stadium and they have been told by the directors at the St George club that they must stop."

Rockdale Council is also upset about alleged noise and parking problems when big games are staged at the ground.

Les Bordacs answers: "There will always be complaitn about parking at every football ground — Sydney Sports Ground, Pratten Park, Henson Park for instance.

"But my club has made

Continued on page 16

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CHIT CHAT

WHAT price Wollongong City for the NSL title?

Wolves' midfielder Larry Gaffney will set you as he recently took out a bookmakers licence.

Gaffney has been in action at Nowra dogs for the last three weeks and obviously hopes to get on to the rails at Randwick one day.

The former Brisbane City player has been making a few "killings" as a punter at Bulli trots recently having been sidelined from his Soccer activities with a broken bone in his left foot.

With utility player Scott Dickson out of action for three months with a shattered cartilage coach John Fleming can't get Gaffney back into full training quickly enough.

■ ■ ■

MORE good news for big-spender club Adelaide Hellas. Ace goalkeeper Gary Sproul, 27, has fully recovered after being sidelined with a knee injury for the past eight months.

He came through a 4-0 Ampol Cup win over Birkalla unscathed. It has been estimated that Hellas has so far this season spent in the vicinity of $100,000 on buying players.

■ ■ ■

FRANK FARINA was invited last week to go to Queensland and play for Townsville as guest player against Brisbane Lions as a guest.

Farina's invitation came from the local Rotary club up there.

But Cairns, upon hearing of Farina's northern expedition, didn't want to be left out.

They also extended another invitation for a similar guest playing stint.

The Sydney City explosive-paced flankman, readily accepted both invitations as it also gave him the opportunity to see his folk who come from Mareeba.

■ ■ ■

THE SA Rothmans State League will start on Saturday March 22. The games for round one are: Salisbury United v E.A. Azzurri, Campbelltown City v W.T. Birkalla, Adelaide Hellas v Elizabeth City, Croatia v Polonia, Modbury v Beograd Woodville. USC Lion Grange v Para Hills.

THE new Parramatta Stadium, unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen, has a low wire fence to separate players from spectators. In this enough?

It certainly would not be a deterrent to those crazy Sydney Olympic fans who seem to think a pitch-invasion is a normal part of a football match.

They'd hop over the fence in a flash!

Clearly, Rugby League fans are much better behaved than those who follow Soccer — and that's sad.

Sydney must be one of the few big cities in the world where a new football stadium could be built without adequate protection for players and referees.

■ ■ ■

THE APIA club is running like a well oiled machine and by the competition start the Leichhardt boys under the expert direction of Rale Rasic should be at their peak. Lambert Park is also looking great and by the time the finishing touches are added it will be without doubt one of the best little stadiums in Sydney.

THE coming NSL season hold no fears for Adelaide City's new coach Zoran Matic.

Matic, a former Adelaide City player, was appointed last November following the departure of Edmund Kreft and is full of praise for the City's players he has inherited and is confident City will qualify for the top 5 competition play off.

When asked if the club is about to buy any players he quickly replied "I have been hired to make players not buy them. My number one priority is to look after the club's youth development scheme. Take teenager Aurelio Vidmar for example. He has great potential but if we don't allow him to play, how can be improve?"

■ ■ ■

IF you just happen to be a Croatian supporter, be it Melbourne or Sydney you would have enjoyed the weekend thoroughly.

On Saturday Melbourne Croatia made light work of Heidelberg in the Buffalo Cup and on Sunday their Sydney counterparts accounted for Inter Monaro in the Ampol Cup.

These victories now set up a very interesting clash of the two sides in Melbourne.

The Adelaide City bench. Zoran Matic (third from left) is the NSL coach for Ad City, he is pictured with Rocky Aloisi, Tom Crawford and Graham McMillan.

Sydney City's likeable attacker — FRANK FARINA, on the boil for his club.

ONE of the great names from Soccer's past, Joe Marston, was among the distinguished guests at the opening of the new Parramatta Stadium.

Joe was there because one of the bars at the new ground is named after him.

When ASW asked Joe what Soccer connections he has these days, he answered: "None at all. I don't even go to matches. The game has changed so much — and not for the better.

"The only Soccer I see now is watching juniors playing in a local park."

Marston is only one of many former big names who have turned their backs on the sport.

We might ask ... "Whatever happened to Peter Wilson?"

The mightly Peter took the Socceroos to the World Cup in Germany in 1974 and played more times for Australia than anyone.

It's a pity such giants of the game cast themselves adrift.

■ ■ ■

THE prophets of doom over the make-up of next year's National League have proved very costly for Brisbane City. Those that jumped to early conclusions and forecast that Brisbane City would be certainties to get the chop put the club in an embarrassing position with a potential sponsor.

Needless to say the big backer was not impressed and three months of negotiations went down the drain.

■ ■ ■

WOLLONGONG CITY are planning a novel way to cut down their interest payments on that ever present bugbear — THE OVERDRAFT.

Chairman Laurie Kelly has appealed to club members to place funds with the club for any period and allow the club to keep the interest.

Kelly explains that the Wolves have an overdraft of around $50,000 and this costs around $12,000 a year to operate.

"We are asking members to make an interest bearing deposit in our bank in their own name," Kelly said.

"Members can direct the bank to pay interest on their money into the Wollongong City account."

Kelly said he has already had several inquiries about the scheme as people will support it to save selling raffles or paying money out each week in a 200 club.

■ ■ ■

INTERESTING story from NSW Soccer Federation treasurer Charles Valentine concerns the day he called on State Premier Neville Wran to collect a $1,000,000 cheque to e used on developing the Parklea complex.

Premier Wran told Charles: "The last time we met was many years ago in court and I was defending a man who blew a safe in your restaurant.

"He was found guilty ... and I didn't lose many cases!"

It is a long time since the NSW Premier quit the legal profession but he still has a good memory!

■ ■ ■

THE 1984 NSL player of the year and Adelaide City star midfielder Sergio Melta who broke his arm on SA's successful tour of India over Christmas, made a comeback in the final minor round of the Ampol Cup on Wednesday 26 February.

He replaced Adrian Santrac in the last 12 minutes of the game. His short appearance showed his is fit and very alert. City beat Rothmans League side Salisbury United in that match by 2-0 and qualified for the semi-final of the Ampol Cup.

■ ■ ■

WAS the NSW Soccer Federation taken by surprise when such a huge crowd turned out for the Ampol Cup semi-finals?

There were 10,000 spectators at St George Stadium for two memorable matches and many of them were very angry to be kept outside when the gates were opened late.

About 5,000 fans were outside clamouring to get in one hour before kick-off time.

Some took the law into their own hands and broke through the fence. It was estimated that about 500 got in free of charge before officials stopped them gaining illegal entry.

These sort of things just should not happen.

■ ■ ■

MARK JANKOVICS does not normally have trouble keeping his weight down, even during the summer break, but he admits he is overweight right now.

The Marconi forward did little training during his dispute with the club when a transfer to Blacktown City was on the cards.

But the problem should be quickly solved.

"This is the first year I can remember having weight troubles," said Mark, "but I've been training well recently and have already shed three kilos."

■ ■ ■

LIONS' recent trial match against Marconi at Richlands was a mixture of good and bad news for the Brisbane Club. The bad news was that the game, rather than solving some selection problems which had troubled coach Gordon Arrowsmith, only proved to highlight the significance of the loss of stopper Alan Hunter.

But the good news for the club was Marconi were impressed with the Lions' performance and said the club could more than hold its own in the Sydney-based northern section. "With one or two more good players there is nothing the team could not do," Marconi coach Les Scheinflug said.

☐ SERGIO MELTA (right) receives the Wedgwood Bowl as the 1984 NSL Player of the Year, applauded by NSW Premier Neville Wran.

FORMER Melita striker Barry Walker is trialling with Wollongong City in the hope of getting a contract.

Walker, described by Wolves' coach John Fleming as a very good finisher, is travelling from Sydney regularly in a bid to make the Wollongong team.

"He is very fit and seems keen to stay with us but I won't know for a week or so what will be happening with him," Fleming said.

Fleming has vivid memories of the last time he saw Walker in action during a match.

It was with Melita in last season's State League grand final against Fairy Meadow when Fleming was coach of that club.

Melita beat Fairy Meadow 4-0 that day and Walker scored two of the goals.

■ ■ ■

PLAYER-POWER always brings trouble. And make no mistake that it can also be equally damaging with females as well as males.

Trouble errupted early last week, allegedly coming from the 5 NSW Women players selected in the Australian team to play New Zealand later this month in Christchurch for the Oceania Cup, which New Zealand already holds.

The five girls from NSW, all pulled out suddenly from the national side, ripping out the guts of the Australian team, just on the eve of their departure.

Obviously fully backed up by the NSW Executive, the girls unless peace is made immediately, will ultimately suffer the consequences at a later date.

The reasons for the "pull-out" has been given as "financial".

That is rubbish as TWO of the players had already sent their money for airfares and accommodation to the National body.

Full story on the Women's page in this edition.

TERRY GREEDY and Mike Gibson will be fighting this season for one job — as goalkeeper for St George.

Here's a strange twist to that arrangement. Since the departure of the flamboyant Ron Tilsed, Greedy has taken over as goalkeeper-coach with Saints.

Greedy will be doing everything possible to assist Gibson make the first grade team. But in matches, Greedy will do his best to keep Gibson OUT of the first team.

Fortunately Greedy, one of the great characters in Soccer, will be able to handle his dual assignment without any problems.

■ ■ ■

ST GEORGE will not be a title threat this year if their Ampol Cup form is a reliable guide.

But Saints, have a couple of trump cards up their sleeve in the shape of imported Europeans, Zoran Beluzic and Miklos Orsagh.

Both players have excellent credentials but coach Frank Arok warns: "We must be a little patient with them while they settle in."

Orsagh, according to Arok, is in Zarko Odzakov's class. Orsagh was captain of AIK Topola for the past six years.

St George also expect a lot from a local, 21 year old Tony Caban from Newcastle, who was with Footscray last season. It may take Caban some time to win a regular first team spot but he is rated the hardest shot on Saints books.

■ ■ ■

ONE of the real class players to watch in this year's NSL is Sydney Croatia's ZELJKO JURIN.

When one speaks of class this fellow is right up with the best in Australia.

Croatia's win in the Cup was meritorious and most of the squad played a big part in it but without Jurin's electrifying pace and all-round skilful wing-play they might not have been so dominant.

WITH their 1-0 win on Sunday over Inter Monaro, Sydney Croatia won their first Ampol Cup Final after more than 20 years of trying.

A long time in coming but the hoodoo was broken by a class outfit that should see plenty of success in future.

By the way it was a weekend of double celebration for Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic, whose wife presented him with a baby boy 24 hours before the Inter Monaro match.

Now there are four little Rozics'. . .two boys and two girls.

■ ■ ■

ALTHOUGH they lost to Melbourne Croatia on Saturday in the Buffalo Cup Final, Heidelberg United have shown that they are steadily overcoming their problems and look likely to come good when the NSL kicks off.

With the comeback on the weekend of Mike Valentine, coach Brian Garvey will now be able to build a strong midfield.

But there is a problem most clubs seem to have and that is of finding a positive striker able to put away chances.

■ ■ ■

A MESSAGE FROM ASW to all clubs involved in our joint ventures.

It is time you started sending information about your club to us so we can fulfil our obligations.

TERRY GREEDY (left) and MIKE GIBSON (right).

BRISBANE LIONS, finally awakening to the Soccer potential in country areas of Queensland are set to implement a youth development scheme which will fund a player to come to Brisbane each year to further his career.

Hopefully, with the likes of Frank Farina and Manis Lamond now playing in the South, it's not a case of the gems already being taken.

■ ■ ■

MARCONI's visit to Brisbane enabled a group of former Young Socceroos to renew their old friendships. The Marconi side had 1983 vintage David Lowe, Rod Brown, Rene Licata and Joe Rizzotto while Lions fielded Mexico tourists Russell Stewart and Danny Wright. The class of all six was still very evident on the park but one wondered just how much further the reputations of the Sydney-based players had advanced to those of their Brisbane counterparts.

THERE will be a quick shuffle of fixtures on the South Coast of NSW this season.

It has been discovered that the day Wollongong City are to play at home to Newcastle, State League teams Wollongong Macedonia and Fairy Meadow clash in their big local derby.

The State League match should attract a crowd of about 3000 so the Wolves are in a big hurry to have their match switched.

"We hope to be able to change it to the Saturday of the same weekend so everyone will be happy," Wolves' secretary John Vlietstra said.

Meantime, the Illawarra Association still intend staging their weekly Sunday match of the day promotion in opposition to the State League and NSL matches.

A great piece of promotion for Soccer generally but it seems at different times the three major Soccer bodies in Wollongong are all at fault.

It should all boil down to giving Wollongong City every chance of drawing a decent gate . . . no other rugby league is played in the city when the Illawarra Steelers go around on Wollongong Showground.

AN NSL club has lost its valuable long standing sponsor because of certain "unfavourable" actions by one of the Club's former officials.

The sponsorship, estimated at annual figure of $20,000, was immediately withdrawn by the Company concerned due to the former official's unsavory dealings.

Again, as always in Soccer, the game pays for the "Mickey Mouses" involved in the code.

■ ■ ■

BRUNO VIDAIC is not the only Sydney Croatia star to quit the game this year.

Another who has decided he's had enough is full-back Tom Basic, son of the Croatia president Tony Basic.

Both will be missed.

Vidaic, in particular, has been a tower of strength with the team for many years.

A physiotherapist, Bruno has opened up another business and finds it difficult to attend to this as well as train regularly with Croatia.

■ ■ ■

The style BRUNO VIDAIC was renowned for. He has retired.

The above picture was taken the day Her Excellency The President of Malta (centre) was at the special day at the Melita Stadium. She is surrounded by Melita officials.

THE GLOVES ARE OFF

By Terry Greedy

Australia's World Cup Goalkeeper

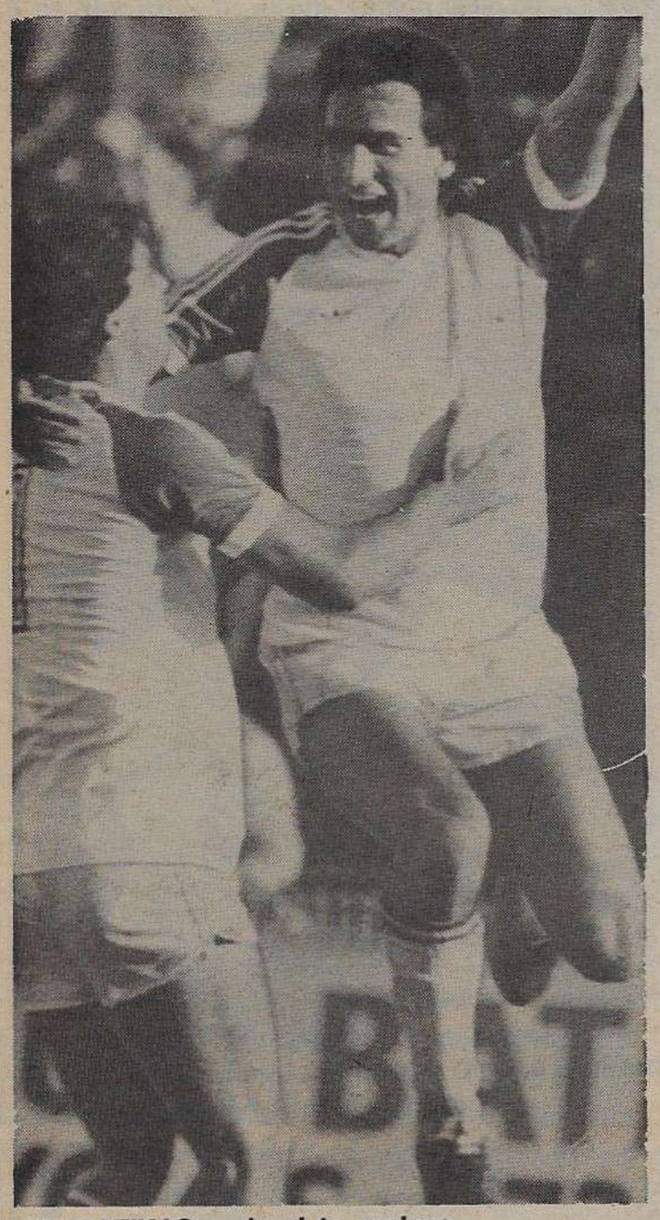
THE COMPETITIONS for the major winter sports are about to start. In the papers and now on television we are being informed about The Swans, Rugby League and Rugby Union. The public is aware of what is happening in each of these codes.

The Swans have Power Play Marketing guiding their media promotions. Rugby Union have also employed the services of a professional advertising agency.

The promotion for Rugby League is staggering. Pennants, outfits, badges, scarves — the list goes on. All are readily available to the supporters. This year shops selling club supporters needs are to be established in all Grace Brothers stores. Free magazine programmes are available in an afternoon newspaper.

Ads. on TV tell us "it's never the same unless you're there at the game". Newspapers report daily on each team's progress, new signings, player injuries and so on.

Indeed, it is impossible to pick up a newspaper and not be confronted with Rugby League in NSW



JIM PATIKAS — hard to replace.

Radio and TV sport shows devote at least 60% of their time talking about Rugby League past, present and future.

With the Swans and Union both throwing their "hats" into the promotion arena along with League, Soccer faces a daunting task to entice spectators to the games.

Sadly, Soccer has no professional help to promote the game. We are told Soccer is the greatest game in the world. It promotes itself. Much has been said about the enormous number of people in Australia who play Soccer, but nothing is being done to promote the major competition in this country so that some of these many players will warm seats at National League games.

It's time the administration of Soccer in this country was re-organised with governing bodies at all levels geared to promoting the game.

Junior games should be programmed so that they do not clash with national league games or interantional games as is regularly the case.

National League games should be scheduled for Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays so that we don't have so many games competing against each other for spectators.

Coverage in all areas of the media must be increased. Soccer segments on TV and radio sport shows must become weekly occurrances.

Spectator needs such as team strips, caps, posters scarves etc. must be made available so that supporters become more involved. Players must be promoted to the public so that we have the emergence of the star players that juniors can identify with and follow each week.

All of the above areas should be developed in an effort to increase spectators and national support for soccer.

The ASF must enlist the help of professional people and people in the game who are aware of the requirements necessary to make Soccer in Australia not just one of the leading participator sports but also a leading spectator sport.

The future of the national league and the international standing of Australian Soccer depends on its successful sale to the public and this can only be achieved by keeping them informed.

Croatia have certainly hit form early this year and they don't seem to be showing any lasting effects from losing Jimmy Patikas to AEK. However a player of the calibre of Jimmy will be hard to replace.

Graham Arnold seems to have continued on with the good form that he displayed last year. But, I wonder what Croatia will do if Arny picks up an injury? They appear to be light on quality reserves if injuries hit their first team.

I think the most pleasing aspect of their game against Olympic must be the form displayed by Steve Watson in goal.

Watson has been unlucky with niggling injuries for a few seasons but on Sunday's form it appears he has been able to shrug off all his problems and is ready for a big year. A fit Steve Watson will certainly put pressure on the national coach to be included in the Australian Squad.

I have long been a fan of Steves and, at his best, he can be unbeatable.

Terry Greedy

STEVE WATSON

EDDIE GRABS THEM YOUNG

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

EDDIE THOMSON, Sydney City's champion NSL coach, likes to grab his material as early as possibly, and this year has continued this policy with a State League Club.

Last Friday, Thomson grabbed another six youngsters and put them under contract to Sydney City.

The lads, all aged 16, will come under the direct guidance of Thomson as he will have them training with Sydney City twice per week.

But on the third night, they as a group, will train with State League Club, Kingsford.

Kingsford, which plays in NSW Division 2, will have the six Sydney City "apprentices" at their disposal to use in matches.

The lads, all from Sydney, are: George Raptis, Sean Scott, Ricki Somboli, Craig Sharpley, George Koukonnaris, Mike Ryan and Mike Latham.

Thomson, has made special arrangements with Kingsford's young President, Mr Michael ("Elton John") Tripolitis, to accomodate them with his club in their competition.

The boys' progress will be very closely monitored every week, and as they mature in style and experience, will then be drafted into Sydney City's Youth League side which is handled by the excellent former Prague star defender, Geoff Harcombe.

Harcombe, a valuable member of the Sydney City coaching staff, won the Youth League NSL Championship last season, when his young side defeated the best from Victoria, Heidelberg United, 3-0 in the National Youth League Grand Final.

Thomson, who over the years has become notorious for snapping up young potential champions, is pleased with the progress made by one of last year's youngsters.

Michael Lardis, another Thomson product, will go to spend a month in Scotland, training with Premier side, Aberdeen.

Thomson who played professional Soccer against Aberdeen's current boss, Alex Ferguson, has made all the arrangements for Lardis to get first hand professional experience with the stars of Aberdeen.

This exposure, will prove to be invaluable to young Lardis in years to come.

In 1980, Thomson sent another young Australian to Aberdeen to get the same type of exposure, training under fulltime professional conditions.

That youngster was called, Jimmy Patikas.

Patikas within two years had become an established first grader, forced his way into the Young Socceroos team, played with Sydney Olympic, top goalscored with Sydney Croatia last year and now is fulltime with AEK of Athens in Greece.

Thomson is doing something right.

EDDIE THOMSON — finding the class youngsters.

ADVERTISE IN ASW
Phone John Economos on 660 2033
If you want to say something — tell us!

Star Profile

NICK THEODORAKOPOULOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Sydney Olympic striker, Nick Theodorakopoulos, after spending some years in the wilderness of the NSW State League, was finally snapped up by Sydney Olympic last year from Canterbury Marrickville Olympic for a bargain fee of $6,000.

In 1983, Nick was the State League's Top Goalscorer.

But after having scored consistently in the State League and now looking forward to a brand new career in the NSL, disaster struck Nick.

He broke his leg at Pratten Park and during the off-season, after having the cast finally taken off, suffered a hairline fracture playing Indoor Soccer to keep himself fit.

This week, the smaller cast was removed and the tall gangling striker cum-midfielder, has knuckled down to making a "come-back" at 21 years of age.

Nick has at the same time embarked on a new career of becoming a Travel Consultant with the Sydney based office of Kyrenia Travel in the City.

"I am really looking forward to the 1986 NSL season because it will be a real tough challenge for me having to fight my way back into the first team.

"We now have Stuart Stevenson to join Marshall Soper and Chris Kalantzis in the Olympic attack-line, making it the deadliest strike-line in the NSL," Nick philosophically evaluated.

But Nick, probably the "biggest name", (16 letters in his surname), in the NSL will battle hard to win his place back in the team.

BORN:29.6.64.
BIRTHPLACE: Bathurst, NSW.
OCCUPATION: Travel Consultant.
PLAYING POSITION: Striker.
WHICH CLUBS DO YOU EXPECT TO DO WELL IN THE 1986 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE:"Sydney Croatia, Apia, Sydney Olympic and Sydney City.

"Sydney City has a strong, established and well experienced squad with a blend of young players to mix with.

"Apia has bought well during the off-season whilst Olympic and Croatia will make it hard for everybody in the League".

HOW WILL YOUR CLUB GO & WHY:"Olympic will do well this season and maybe even crack the title.

"The club has made some good signings and the return of Mike Coady together with Stuart Stevenson and Vicente Estavillo, we have at last got depth and experience".

WHICH PLAYERS WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN YOUR TEAM:"Mike Petersen from Juventus and Graham Arnold from Croatia."

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE NSL PLAYERS:"Mike Petersen, Peter Raskopoulos, Marshall Soper".

WHICH OTHER TEAM WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY FOR OTHER THAN THE ONE YOU ARE WITH NOW & WHY:"South Melbourne or Heidelberg because they have strong supporters as well".

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE OTHER THAN SOCCER:"To save enough money to one day be able to afford my own business in Travel and lead a happy, securred life".

DO YOU THINK WHAT MONEY PLAYERS EARN IN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER IS FAIR:"Yes I think so.

"Many players in the NSL today are being paid fulltime money for part time Soccer which attracts 'part time' gates".

OTHER GENERAL THOUGHTS ON AUSTRALIAN SOCCER:"Many referees in the game today are too whistle-happy and try to attract attention to themselves which spoils the match for everybody.

"It also upsets the players and puts them off their game".

WHO WILL WIN THE 1986 WORLD CUP & WHY:"Well I would like to see France win it.

"In my opinion, they were the best country in the 1982 World Cup in Spain and in fact it was an injustice France did not win it.

"But if it is not them, it will be very hard to go past the masters, Brazil I would say".

Star Profile

GRAHAM JENNINGS

CROATIA SYDNEY S.F.C.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Sydney Croatia's newly signed left full-back, Graham Jennings from Sydney Olympic, was a surprise transfer during the off-season.

Jennings has served Australia with distinction and in the last World Cup campaign was one of the National side's most consistent performers.

It was Jennings who in Tel Aviv raided down the left flank to whip in a powerful cross to his captain, John Kosmina in centre-box.

Kosmina rewarded Jenning's effort by smashing home a scorching header to put Australia ahead 0-2 against Israel.

Now Graham begins a new club career with Croatia under the astute guidance of his coach, Vedran Rozic. He will endeavour to help Croatia win their first ever NSL Championship.

"I am really looking forward to the 1986 NSL season with Sydney Croatia. "It will be a new challenge for me to establish myself in Croatia's line-up".

His scorching pace in attack soon brought Jennings his nickname "FLASH" by his former Olympic team-mates.

Married to Louise, the Jennings moved into their own home last year in Sydney's Western Suburbs.

Graham's pace and international experience, will add great value to Croatia's championship aspirations.

BORN:18.1.60.
BIRTHPLACE: Merewether, Newcastle.
OCCUPATION: Fulltime player.
PLAYING POSITION: Attacking left-back.
WHICH CLUBS DO YOU EXPECT TO DO WELL IN THE 1986 NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE:"Sydney Croatia, Blacktown City and Marconi.

"All have added to their squads during the off-season, especially Blacktown City".

HOW WILL YOUR CLUB GO & WHY:"Croatia will do well again this year as they are an attacking team which likes to go forward always.

"The club has some very good players on its books, especially that midfield general Zarko Odzakov.

"But it goes without saying that we will miss Jimmy Patikas very much in attack.

"There are many other classy players and with Vedran Rozic guiding the defence, he has a stabilising influence."

WHICH PLAYERS WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN YOUR TEAM:"Jimmy Patikas to come back and maybe Marshall Soper to join the attack-line."

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE NSL PLAYERS:"Marshall Soper, Martyn Rogers and Peter Raskopoulos."

WHICH OTHER TEAM WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY FOR OTHER THAN THE ONE YOU ARE WITH NOW & WHY:"Marconi. They have a good young squad with an allround team of goalscorers. They always are able to score plenty of goals".

WHAT ARE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE OTHER THAN SOCCER:"To save enough money to one day be able to afford my own business one day of some kind. At the moment I am concentrating on Soccer and to lead a happy and healthy life".

DO YOU THINK WHAT MONEY PLAYERS EARN IN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER IS FAIR:"Yes because we are basically part-timers, but we are expected to perform as fulltimers.

"But then again it really depends on which club you are at as far as earings are concerned".

OTHER GENERAL THOUGHTS ON AUSTRALIAN SOCCER:"The Australian National team got much recognition in the Media last year during the World Cup eliminations.

"But in reality, it is the clubs that badly need this Media space and recognition to help promote the code, build a crowd following and thus add to the generation of funds through the gate".

their game".

WHO WILL WIN THE 1986 WORLD CUP & WHY:"France I hope. They are a great team with good allround ability.

"In the last World Cup they were wonderful with a blend of styles from Europe as well as South American".

PARRAMATTA GETS ITS GROUND

Queen Elizabeth does the honours

BY FRANK COLETTA

DESPITE years of public back-biting and external hassles involving the Parramatta Stadium, the official opening on Wednesday, March 5 went off a treat.

More than 20,000 people packed the former Cumberland Oval to witness the Queen utter those hackneyed yet near immortal words: "I have much pleasure in declaring the Parramatta Stadium open."

The fervour and enthusiasm of the inhabitants on this day was visibly evident from the first tentative steps taken by young teenagers enlisted to help out with the festivities to their lengthened strides once they had got over the formality of getting onto the ground.

Just to enhance the expectations of the crowd and whip up the already obvious enthusiasm instilled in the people, Her Majesty the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were frivilously some five minutes late.

When they did arrive, so did the applause and accolades that usually follow them . . . there were no bare-breasted demonstrators here!

There was, however, the first 'early shower' in a sense when one of the helium balloon bearers lost his grip and sent it skywards some two hours before schedule!

Over 2000 children then turned on a dazzling display, everything from gymnastics to plain clowning around.

"Doesn't look like a Rugby field, does it?" claimed one grandstander casting an eye at the ground, "It is more like a Soccer ground."

Too right! It does resemble the classic round-ball ground and appropriately there will be many Soccer battles decided in the Parramatta Stadium.

Curiously, the surface of the stadium resembles quite closely that of the Mt. Smart Stadium in New Zealand.

The actual surface is near identical, although the Parramatta Stadium is of the well known couch grass, being firm yet with a mere touch of sponginess. Perfect.

So, the first points, symbolically anyway, were scored on this day at the new Parramatta Stadium.

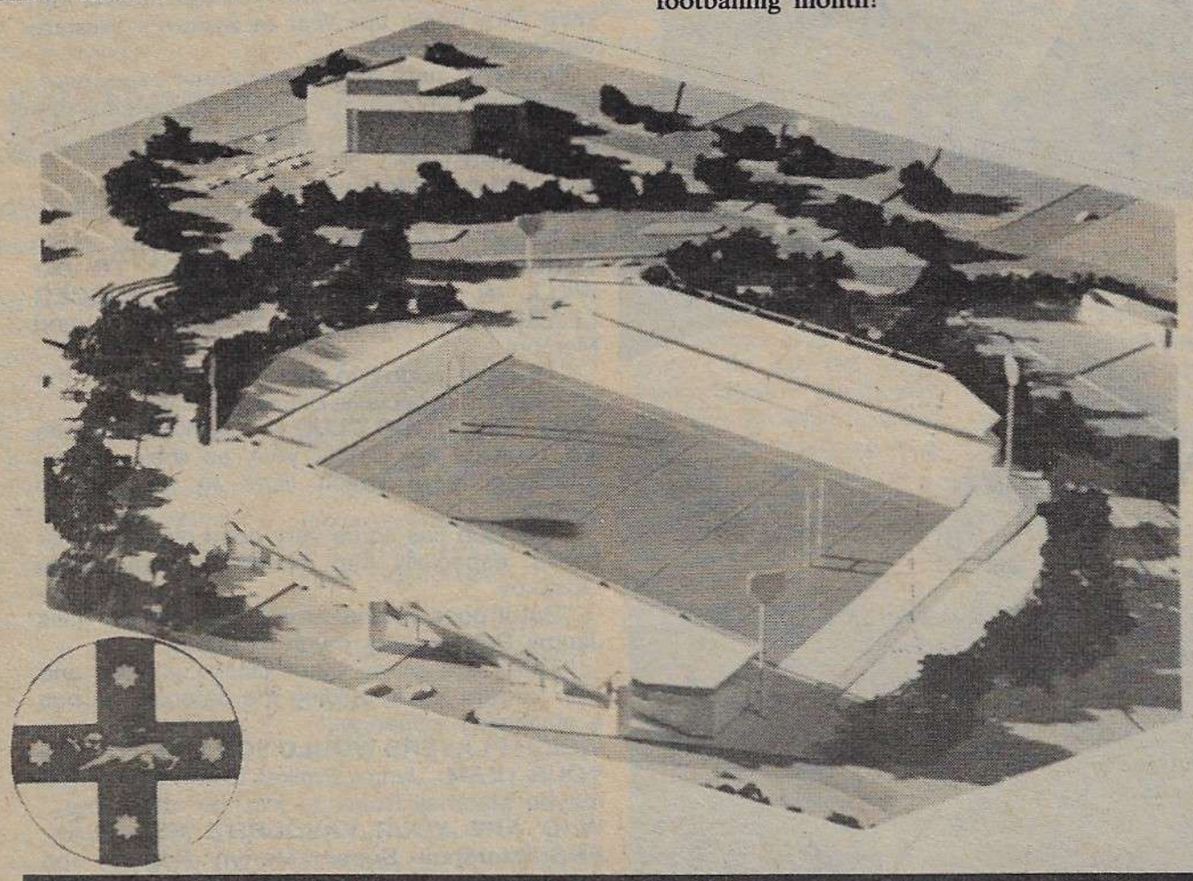
So, the pleasantries are over and now it is down to the real thing. The first football match of any kind will be played this Sunday when Parramatta clash with St George in a Rugby League match.

As, for our beloved game no certain date has been set for the first game there. But, there is talk of using it for a match involving former England great Kevin Keegan, who will turn out for Blacktown for two guest appearances in May.

As well, plans are afoot to stage the 1986 NSL play-offs there in October.

We can only hope it happens, because if it does it will be one heck of a footballing month!

(Above left) Her Majesty (Above right) The Duke



The sporting public of New South Wales can justifiably be proud of Parramatta Stadium, the most modern football arena in the nation.

Sport has always been a major part of the Australian lifestyle and football has a particularly loyal following.

It has been extremely satisfying to play a central role in guiding this ambitious project to fruition and I would like to congratulate everyone involved.

On behalf of the Government and people of New South Wales I welcome Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to the stadium. Their presence underlines the significance both of this project and the growing western region of our great city.

Parramatta Stadium will certainly be a unique asset to Australian sport.

Good luck to all who play on its field.

Neville Wran

NEVILLE WRAN
PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

NANDA SOCCER CUP — 1986

ROUND 1

SATURDAY/SUNDAY 15/16 MARCH (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)			
Green Gully	v Croydon City		Green Gully Res.
SUNDAY 16 MARCH			
Adelaide Hellas	v Salisbury United	2.30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
SATURDAY 22 MARCH			
N'castle R'bud Utd	v Belmont Swansea	7.30pm	Adamstown Oval
SUNDAY 23 MARCH			
Stirling Macedonia	v Adelaide City		Perth
Brunswick Uv.	v Melbourne Croatia	2.00pm	Olympic Park, Melb
Heidelberg Utd	v Preston	4.00pm	Olympic Park, Melb
Sunshine G.C.	v Footscray	2.00pm	Middle Park
Juventus Pioneer (Tas.)	v South Melbourne	4.00pm	Middle Park
Brisbane City	v Brisbane Lions	3.00pm	Spencer Park
Melita Eagles	v Ipswich Utd (Qld)	4.00pm	Melita Stadium
Wollongong City	v Canterbury M.O.	2.00pm	Melita Stadium
St George	v Marconi	2.00pm	St George Stadium
Sydney Olympic	v APIA-Leichhardt	4.00pm	St George Stadium
Sydney Croatia	v Sydney City	3.00pm	Croatian Spts Centre
Inter Monaro	v Canberra City	4.00pm	venue TBA
West Woden Juv.	v Blacktown City	2.00pm	venue TBA

IT'S THE NANDA NATIONAL CUP

BY DAVID JACK

THE National Cup this year has attracted a new sponsor, the Brisbane-based company, Nanda Macaroni Products.

Nanda will contribute $40,000 of the $70,000 prize money to be won, a valuable contribution from the company.

National League president Sam Papasavas said: "We are tremendously pleased to have Nanda associated with the Cup and we hope this is just the start of a long-term relationship with this well-respected go-ahead firm.

"No doubt Nanda's involvement will enhance the reputation and credibility of Australia's premier knock-out competition."

Nanda's managing director Ralph De Pasquale said his company was excited to be associated with the Cup.

And like Papasavas, the man fron Nanda stressed: "We trust that the relationship will develop into a long-term association."

So Soccer has another helper and we must say..."Welcome aboard, Nanda."

There will be 32 clubs competing and it is good to note they come from every State in Australia.

Even West Australia and Tasmania, who have no links with the National League will have representatives playing in the new Nanda Cup.

CUP FLASHBACK: APIA Leichhardt winning the National Cup back in 1982.

THE QUEENSLAND REPORT

With Greg Russell

TESTED TO THE FULL

A QUEENSLAND Soccer Federation ruling on loan agreements is set to be fully tested before the start of the season.

The QSF made a landmark ruling last week when it advised clubs that players could only go on loan once per season.

The ruling was in fact a motion put to last year's annual general meeting, but put aside when it was decided the wording was not as tight as it could be, that meant the constitution stood unchanged with no maximum on the number of loans per player per season.

But the Federation encorced the one loan per player rule last week as "Federation Policy".

Now, at least one club is prepared to buck "policy" and seek its constitutional right to trial players. The club wants to trial a prominent player, and has permission from his club. But because the player decided to train temporarily with a local lower division club, he now appears stranded unless the QSF relents on its policy.

"It's ludicrous. I can understand the Federation's reasons behind restricting loans but this is a genuine case and we are being disadvantaged," the club spokesman said.

The loan ruling was highlighted when Rockhampton Frenchville player Brett Druery was approached to trial with Lions while on trial with Premier League Club Easts.

He previously had brief loan spells with Brisbane City and Sunnyside and when the Lions request was made, the QSF drew the line.

Druery was eventually allowed to trial with the national league club, but the QSF has made it quite clear that until the constitution is altered, despite not being an official rule, it will not permit layers to trial repeatedly.

"We can't have a situation where players are bobbing up all over the place. We had one club lodge clearances for a player to trial at three different clubs.

For reasons of registration, and insurance we just can't have this type of thing happening," a Federation spokesman said.

Whether the matter develops to a major item at a council meeting, or the management committee judges each case on its merits, remains to be seen.

PEARSE RETURNS

QUEENSLAND Youth team fullback Cameron Pearse is back in Brisbane after a trial with German First Division Club FC Cologne.

It was an early return for the teenage starlet, who left for the trial amid wide publicity. But Pearse found when he arrived that conditions had changed somewhat since he was first offered the trial during a Soccer camp in Hennef, near Bonn, last October.

The coach who had originally approached Pearce had left the club and the new man failed to show the same enthusiasm for the young Australian.To make matters worse, Pearse could speak no German and consequently was on the outside to begin with.

But every experience is a lesson and Pearse is none the worse for his two months in the highly professional German set-up.

Immediately on his return to Brisbane, Pearce opted to trial with National League Club Brisbane Lions, rather than return to his old side, Premier Leaguers North Star.

But whether he stays with the Richlands clubs probably is subject to negotiation.

Lions are very enthusiastic about Pearse, and believe he can play NSL in the very near future. If the club can sign him it will complete a scoop of Bruce Stowell's State Youth Team which won the National Championship last year.

Already at the club are whizz strikers Jarrod Austin and Lindsay Dines and midfielders Nick Meredith and Richard Van Wyn. Fringe rep players including Jason Kearton and Robert Marino also are playing at Lions.

BRUCE STOWELL (above) — his State Youth team going en masse to Lions.

THE COAST SEEK NSL GOLD

THE Gold Coast's bid for future National League inclusion moved one step closer last week when the tourist strip appointed its First Regional Director of Coaching.

Sydney-born Jim Selby is the man to whome the coast has entrusted its future.

And on his past record, the Gold Coast could not have made a better choice. After a career which included coaching stints in the Northern NSW State League and in Darwin, Selby has spent the past five years as the Bunbaberg Regional Director of Coaching.

During that time the Rum City qualified for every Ampol Cup main draw. Under Selby, Bundaberg lost only five of 52 representative assignments.

Although National League representation has always been the long-term aim of the progressive Gold Coast officials, despite the appointment of Selby they maintain the NSL is exactly that — the long term.

But they are now very eager about short term aims which include a bold showing in the Ampol Cup.

The Coast withdrew from the competition over the past two years but it will be back this season.

"You can tell the Brisbane clubs and the other regions that we're gunning for them this season," warned Gold Coast and Albert Federation secretary Dennis Griffin.

The Gold Coast's enthusiasm is not soley based on Selby's appointment. The Region is now one of the best organised in the State.

A massive restructuring more than 12 months ago saw all facets of the game brought under the one umbrella. Seniors, juniors, women and referees all now provide input in the decision-making processes to ensure harmony and organisation.

"Last year we had 24 senior teams and that should reach 30 this season. Things are really looking up," Griffin said.

"We will have regular representative fixtures during 1986, the first against the Sunshine Coast at the Glasshouse Complex on April 6."

1967 SOCCEROO TRYING AGAIN

FORMER Australian player Gary Wilkins is back on the representative scene.

Wilkins, who toured Asia in 1967 with the Socceroos, has been named as the Ipswich coach for the Annual Intercity clash against Brisbane.

Wilkins is one of the most popular characters of Queensland Soccer and his appointment as Ipswich coach caps an illustrious and varied Soccer career.

The 39-year-old executive with Metro Meats is currently Brisbane Lions vice-president. With the assistance of friend and former team-mate Ben Molle, Wilkins also coaches the club's Premier Reserves side and is an active and successful talent scout.

Clashes between Brisbane and Ipswich are not new for Wilkins. During his playing days with Hollandia (Lions' former name) Wilkins led Ipswich to no less than four Kruger Cup wins over Brisbane.

Wilkins is one of Ipswich's favourite Soccer sons and began his career with the legendary Bundamba Rangers. He switched to Redbank and Dinmore before going to Lions in a 900 pound ($1800) deal which also involved his brother Darryl.

The tough defender played for the State more than 30 times and fought back from a mystery illness to continue his career which included playing against the touring Manchester United team which boasted Bobby Charlton.

Wilkins will be assisted with the Ipswich team by former Coalstars player John Roderick, now Soccer writer with the Ipswich paper, the Queensland Times.

Wilkins' oposing coach will be Mal Bland. Bland has been out of the Soccer limelight for three years after taking Eastern Suburbs to the semi-finals of the State League.

Since then Bland has been director of junior coaching at Mount Gravatt, but has kept a close eye on senior football.

Like Wilkins he will use the Queensland Soccer Federation's XXXX preseason tournament to select his team for the Intercity clash.

The QSF management committee was forced to pick two new coaches for the match after last year's incumbents were unavailable.

Brisbane coach Fred Robins, who last year guided Brisbane to a penalty shootout win over Ipswich, is unavailable because of his commitments to the Australian Women's team which will be playing in the Oceania Tournament in New Zealand.

Last year's Ipswich coach Ian Johnstone has work commitments this season.

STATE CLASH

THE Queensland Soccer Federation has thrown the onus back on the National League to accomodate the state's annual clash with New South Wales at Perry Park on May 11.

The QSF has confirmed the match date with the NSW Federation and plans to go ahead with the match — despite an apparant conflict with the National League Fixture list.

Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions, who will provide the bulk of the Queensland team, have NSL matches against Footscray and Sunshine George Cross on May 11.

And a full round of fixtures will be held in Sydney the same day, although as in past years, the NSW Federation should be able to sidestep any problems by not selecting more than three players from each NSL team.

Still, the leading NSW clubs are unlikely to be overjoyed about losing players like John Kosmina, Graham Jennings and Terry Greedy.

But the real problems, where postponements will be forced unless changes are made, involves the Brisbane teams, and the situation could so easily be remedied if the league switched rounds six and seven.

The derby between the two teams, which would have been the logical match to program for the date for minimum southern disruption, is scheduled for round seven, the week after the interstate game.

"Over the past few years we have slowly built a representative program that has been well received by all sections of the code, its supporters and the media. It is vital that we keep the program going which is why we have worked hard to maintain the interstate clash and organise another tour," QSF Secretary Alan Vessey said.

Queensland, who were beaten 3-1 by a full strength NSW side last year, toured Fiji last year. The Maroons played three matches for two wins, including a 2-1 victory over the Fiji national team.

It was originally scheduled for May 11 but was switched to the following Sunday in a revised NSL draw.

By simply switching rounds six and seven, the Melbourne clubs will remain totally uninterrupted, the Brisbane Derby could be played mid-week some time later and the Northern Division NSL games could still go ahead, albeit minus a few stars.

JOHN KOSMINA

The ball is firmly in the NSL's court.

The interstate game will be part of another huge representative season this year for Queensland.

The program will kick-off with the Brisbane-Ipswich annual intercity clash at Perry Park on April 11, that will be the final trial for non-NSL players to win their way into the interstate squad.

And immediately following the interstate game, a Queensland representative side will make a nine-day tour of Papua New Guinea which will include three games, including a clash against the National team.

ADIDAS BRING SOME MORE NEW DESIGNS FOR CUP

WORLD CUP finals and Adidas have walked hand in hand over the past decade and this year's series in Mexico will be no exception.

BY TOM ANDERSON

When the 52 games take place in Old Mexicana the ball that will be used will be the new Azteca Mexico, designed specially for the series by the Adidas company.

Indeed, this will be the fifth consecutive time the World Cup organising committee has used an Adidas produced ball.

Also, along with supplying half of the participating nations gear, Adidas will supply all the equipment for the 64 referees and linesman participating in the big event.

As usual the sporting goods company will make numerous awards and at the end of the series the golden and bronze boot will be presented to the individual top scorers.

The outstanding player — selected by the journalists at the series, will receive the coveted golden ball.

The Adidas World Cup 'record' in World Cup final series is:-

SWITZERLAND 1954 — West Germany winners wore their boots.

SWEDEN 1958 — The majority of the teams wore the three stripes.

CHILE 1962 — Almost a three stipe majority by all nations.

ENGLAND 1966 — 75 percent of the participating players wore Adidas boots.

MEXICO 1970 — for the first time the Adidas ball was used.

WEST GERMANY 1974 — Every team wore Adidas shirts. Of course the official Adidas ball was used for the series.

ARGENTINA 1978 — the launch of the now famous 'Tango Ball'.

SPAIN 1982 — Again the official ball and 85 percent of the players in the three stripe boots.

(Below) The West German side is one nation fully sponsored by Adidas.

SCHUMACHER — ANOTHER GERMAN BAD BOY

BY TOM ANDERSON

THE big question that is being asked in football circles at the present time is — are the warning signs already out for a West German failure in this year's World Cup finals in Mexico?

They have come in the form of a statement from West German boss Franz Beckenbauer that he is unlikely to continue in the role of national coach after Mexico and the four week suspension of national team captain and goalkeeper Harald Schumacher.

In Beckenbauer's case he is probably getting his chop in first ORE anything happens in Mexico!

But the Schumacher situation is entirely different.

For here is a player who has without doubt the dubious reputation of being one of the 'bad boys' of World football.

He is of course one of the world's greatest goalkeepers.

Schumacher got his reputation in the 1982 World Cup semi-final against France in Spain in a complete act of folly.

It came of course when he flattened French striker Patrick Battiston with a tackle that would even have copped a warning or a send-off in a rugby league game.

This foolish incident probably received more publicity than any other demeanour on a Soccer field and the goalkeeper has never been able to live it down.

Indeed it is an incident that will haunt him for the rest of his playing career.

Last week the West German FA handed out a four week suspension to Schumacher after he had committed another bad foul while playing for his club Cologne.

And coming at this important time in Germany's World Cup preparations it does not look good.

Schumacher 32, is a top flight goalkeeper by any standard and has represented West Germany on 64 occasions.

The sortie in Mexico will be this second World Cup final appearance and likely his last — so no doubt he will want to go one better this year than he did in 1982 when West Germany were beaten in the final by Italy.

Known in West Germany as 'Toni', Schumacher was born in the Rhineland and started his career with minor club Schwarz-Weiss Duren.

He soon had the talent scouts knocking on his door and signed for Cologne as an 18-year-old in 1972.

At club level he has won three league championships with Cologne and is hero worshipped in the area.

He would have made the German national team much earlier than he did in 1979 except for the man then in possession — the legendary Sepp Maier of Bayern Muphich.

Schumacher was Maiers understudy in the 1978 World Cup series in Argentina.

Success at international level came Schumacher's way when he helped West Germany to win the European Championship in Italy in 1980.

Despite his 'horror patch' in Spain, Schumacher continued as West Germany's number one goalkeeper in the European Championships finals in France in 1984.

But the French fans gave him 'some stick' for his World Cup charge on their here Battiston and West Germany failed to even make the semi-finals.

In 1984 Schumacher had more problems which came in a fiery clash with the Cologne club officials.

Cologne received a sponsorship from Adidas, but as Schumacher was signed up by rival company Puma, a conflict of interests broke into a 'war'.

However a compromise was reached and the controversial keeper remained with the club.

In 1984 he was also voted West Germany's 'Footballer of the Year'.

In the same year he was also named as Europe's number one goalkeeper.

To say that Harald Schumacher is a complex character would probably be the understatement of the year!

Although he realised he did the wrong thing in Spain by flattening Battiston he afterwards refused to apologise to the Frenchman.

His detractors label him 'arogant' and a man without compassion.

However he is a totally committed professional who works long and hard at his game.

He is managed by long-time friend Rudiger Schmitz who handles his business enterprises to perfection.

Married wit two children 'Toni' Schumacher is determined to make Mexico the highlight of his controversial career.

No doubt everyone in West Germany is hoping this will be the case and that his present suspension will have no effect on his form.

Especially team manager Franz Beckenbauer, who if Schumacher behaves himself and produces the goods, may be able to retire in peace and tranquility!

TONI SCHUMACHER

(Right) The new Azteca ball is unveiled by LOC — President Guillermo Canedo.

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED! ORDER ASW WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT BEFORE YOU MISS OUT!

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT TO GET CLUBS INTO GEAR FOR 1986 SEASON

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

A Special Invitational Tournament, starting tomorrow night at two venues, the St George Stadium and the Marconi Stadium, will involve eight teams from the NSL and the NSW State League.

The Invitational Tournament, the brainchild of St George manager, Frank Arok, is being staged to give players and fans continuity of Soccer since the Ampol Cup

ALEX ROBERTSON

started too early this season.

The Cup competition kicked off on January 17, and many teams that were knocked out early have been left without matches to play prior to the NSL Cup kicking off on the 23rd of this month.

So to fill this Soccer vacuum, Arok decided to stage this tournament.

STEVE O'CONNOR

DAVID RATCLIFFE

CLUBS INVOLVED

The eight clubs involved will be split into two groups, Group A and Group B.

In Group A, the teams are: St George, Cant-Marrickville, Olympic, Sydney City and Rockdale Ilinden.

ZARKO ODZAKOV

In Group B, the teams are: Marconi, Auburn-Uruguay, Blacktown City and Croatia or Avala.

Group A matches will be played at the St George Stadium.

Group B matches will be held at the Marconi Stadium.

The two Groups will initially play a round robin of matches with each win counting for two points.

The tournament will be played over four nights with the final set down for Wednesday, March 19 at a venue to be determined.

Arok told ASW: "With many teams finding themselves without matches to keep them occupied due to

TERRY GREEDY

an early knock out from the Ampol Cup, this tournament is an ideal instrument to keep these clubs match-fit.

"It will also provide a nice 'run-in' for them for the NSL Cup.

Eddie Thomson, Sydney City's coach, endorsed Arok's reasoning.

Thomson said: "There was too big a break between the Ampol Cup kicking off.

"This tournament will fill this football vacuum ideally."

ROBBIE WHEATLEY

St George are hoping to have on display a new Scottish central striker, recommended to Arok by Alex Ferguson.

He is Stewart Porter who played in Scotland with East Fife. Porter is tall, strong and fast.

The tournament kicks off tomorrow night at the St George Stadium as well

GRAEME JENNINGS

as at the Marconi Stadium.

The early matches are set down for kick-off at 7pm with the late matches starting at 8.45pm.

At the St George Stadium, Sydney City takes on Atti Abonyi's Rockdale Ilinden, while at the Marconi Stadium, the early match is between Blacktown City and Croatia or Avala.

In the late matches at both venues, St George clashes with Canterbury Marrickville Olympic at St George, while at Marconi Stadium, Marconi takes on Auburn Uruguay.

ROD BROWN

JOHN KOSMINA

GERRY GOMEZ

EDDIE THOMSON

On Friday night, again at the same time slots of 7pm and 8.45pm, Round 2 of the Round Robin of matches will be played.

Canterbury takes on Sydney City and St George clashes with Rockdale Ilinden at the St George Stadium.

Out at Marconi Stadium in the early match, Auburn Uruguay plays Blacktown City and in the late match, Marconi plays either Croatia or Avala.

All matches will be played over 90 minutes each.

All eight teams will receive a participation fee of $2,000 each.

All profits will be split on a percentage basis according to where each team finishes in the tournament.

BE THERE TO CATCH THE ACTION LIVE BE THERE!

INVITATION SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Wednesday 12th March, Friday 14th March, Sunday 16th March

GROUP A

St George Stadium

ROUND 1

(Tomorrow night March 12)

7pm SYDNEY CITY vs ROCKDALE ILINDEN

8.45pm ST GEORGE vs CANTERBURY

ROUND 2

(Friday March 14)

4pm ROCKDALE ILINDEN vs CANTERBURY

5.45pm ST GEORGE vs SYDNEY CITY

GROUP B

Marconi Stadium

ROUND 1

7pm BLACKTOWN CITY vs CROATIA or AVALA

8.45pm MARCONI vs AUBURN-URUGUAY

ROUND 2

7pm AUBURN URUGUAY vs BLACKTOWN CITY

8.45pm CROATIA or AVALA vs MARCONI

ROUND 3

5pm CROATIA or AVALA vs AUBURN-URUGUAY

6.45pm MARCONI vs BLACKTOWN CITY

GROUNDS

Marconi Stadium at Bossley Park, Fairfield

St George Stadium at Bestic St, Rockdale

(FINAL TO BE PLAYED WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH. . .VENUE TO BE ADVISED)

ITALY — THE SPHINX-LIKE WORLD CHAMPIONS

Starting this week ASW's FRANK COLETTA will analyse the prospects of all 24 World Cup Finalists . . .

Italy's line-up eight months ago in Mexico. Back row (left to right) Collovatti, Bergomi, Tricella, Galli, Altobelli, Bagni — (Front): Baresi, Vierchowod, Conti, Di Gennaro, Galderisi.

The crown Italy holds of World Champion will be up for grabs come May 31st.

They'll all be gunning for the aristocrats from Italy and the question is, how well will the Italians be prepared?

Manager Enzo Bearzot believes his squad will hold their own against all-comers and once again silence the many critics of his players and himself.

Bearzot is the first to admit Italy's results of late have not been the best but is quick to remark, "I've had these such phases with my side many times previous. For example prior to the our victory in Spain 1982.

"Also following our World Cup win we had a slump in the qualifying rounds for the 1984 European Championship.

"We missed qualification but soon afterwards we were out of our troubles. In fact we went some ten games unbeaten before going down to Norway.

"As I've said we have had our bad moments but we have shown immense character to bounce back."

Bearzot has been in charge of the Italian squad since 1975, entering his 11th year. He more than anyone else has brought verve and vitality back into a nation that once primed itself with catennaccio defence, now with Bearzot the silken touches and explosive attacking are well entrenched in the side.

This is not to say that the defence has deteriorated, not in the least — it has just become that little bit classier.

The team of 1982 is now well and truly dispersed — just on half of that squad won't be in Mexico.

For a start the near immortal goalkeeping stalwart, Dino Zoff is long gone.

The holder of 112 caps called it a day midway through the European Championship campaign of 1983-84.

FLASHBACK: Spain 1982 — The final whistle has been blown and Italy's manager, ENZO BEARZOT is chaired by the Italian squad as Italy win the World Cup — defeating West Germany 3-1. Bearzot now entering his 11th year in charge of the aristocratic Italians has a tough job ahead.

His spot has not been completely settled, Franco Tancredi (AS Roma), Giovanni Galli (Fiorentina), Ivano Bordon (Sampdoria) and Stefano Tacconi (Juventus) are all disputing the job and will right until selection time.

Bordon may have lost his chance, unfortunately for him he was destined to be Zoff's understudy for many, many years — the duration of the great man's career.

Tacconi must be considered most unlucky, he is yet to be capped even though he is practically the best in Italy. He has however represented in the Olympics.

Other stars of the '82 campaign, Claudio Gentile, Marco Tardelli, (only a quick form revival will save him) Gabriele Oriali, Francesco Graziani and Giampiero Marini are all out of the side.

Franco Causio, the old warhorse has had his day even though along with the great Roberto Bettega he played a fair few games following Spain.

Giancarlo Antognoni has a great heart along with his many skills. After nearly being killed prior to the 1982 World Cup, then after making it, missed out on the Cup win nursing a 7-inch gash, Antognoni has kept at it.

Last year he had his leg broken playing for Fiorentina but has fought back to play again.

In his first game back for Fiorentina he outplayed Juve's maestro, Michel Platini.

At 32, Antognoni is still a good proposition and made his intentions clear when he said, "I have come good, so now I will try to claim a spot back in the Italian side."

The back-line has changed with only Juventini pair, Gaetano Scirea and Antonio Cabrini recognisable.

Roma's tough yet elegant, Sebastiano Nela is disputing the right-back position with Giuseppe Bergomi.

STEFANO TACCONI (above left) trying to establish himself as DINO ZOFF's (right) successor.

Nela is 25 years old who began his career with Genoa and he now has 4 caps.

Bergomi on the other hand is a seasoned veteran at the age of 22! Holding over 20 caps and a World Cup Final appearance under his belt, he seeminly has a mortgage on a spot.

The other spot at the back is up for grabs although 28-years-old Inter stalwart, Salvatore Bagni has the best claims ahead of Pietro Vierchowod, Fulvio Collovati, Ubaldo Righetti and Franco Baresi.

Baresi however may get a start as he is in the mould of Claudio Gentile. An 'enforcer', although he possesses much more skill than 'the gentle one'.

In midfield Italy have never failed to produce both artisans and artists.

The good thing in Bagni is he can 'double-up' in the midfield if need be and he has a reputation for being strong in the tackle and a strict marker, not unlike Marco Tardelli, who still holds a faint hope of making the squad, they then are ideally complimented by Torino's, Giuseppe Dossena. His fixture on the international scene is even more important through the absences of Oriali, Tardelli and Marini.

The key to Italy's Mexican campaign may well be the brilliant Bruno Conti of AS Roma. Unequivocally Italy's best player in Spain 1982, Conti has the resilience and brilliance to lead 'Gli Azzurri' to further triumphs.

If Conti, the holder of 40-plus caps fires, Italy will be hard to beat.

The other positions other than his in the midfield are not settled.

All of Carlo Ancelotti, Antonio Sabato, Antonio Di Gennaro, Sergio Battistini, Daniel Massaro, Dossena, Tardelli and Antognoni must sort themselves out — two who'll miss out look likely to be Verona's Beniamino Vignola and Sampdoria's Evaristo Beccalossi.

It is unfortunate too, because both possess an abundance of god-given skills and are able to take up the role of play-maker in a side.

For mine Vignola is possibly the best Italian midfielder of his type in the country and it would be a tragedy if he was overlooked. He was restricted in his appearances for World and European Club Champions, Juventus during his two years there because of the presence of Michel Platini.

If the Italians have changed in personnel, they have lost little or no experience, for example the strikers in contention.

If Conti is the key then Paolo Rossi is Italy's lock to the World Cup.

Rossi of World Cup winner, Golden Boot, European Footballer of the Year and his third World Cup.

At the moment 'Pablito' carries a hamstring injury, in fact his days at AC Milan have been more prone to injury than scoring goals.

Although when he has got on the field he still has managed to find the net.

But Rossi has challenners and at 30 years of age must realise that although by hook or by crook he'll be in Mexico, if he doesn't perform straight away there will beample replacements.

In 1982 Italy had little or no replacements up front, well not tried and tested, you see Altobelli was not quite at his peak and Selvaggi wasn't quite ready and Bettega was not there.

So Rossi, although without goals in the first three games held his spot — this time he won't be quite so lucky.

You see Alessandro Altobelli is well and truly a world class forward — capable of leading the Italian attack at 31 years of age, holder of 38 caps and 15 goals.

Then there is Rossi's replacement at Juventus, Aldo Serena having recently made his international debut and considered by many the perfect foil for Rossi.

aly early this year. (Back): Cabrini, Bagni, Baresi, Ancelotti, Bordon, Bergomi — (Front): Rossi, Conti, Giordano, Dossena, Vierchowod. (Below): Antognoni (left) and Cabrini (right).

He must have loved the round ball from the moment of his birth (Santa Lucia di Prato, 23 September 1956). Scoring goals soon became his mission; he was always the best, with the natural elegance of his ball-control and the instinctive incisiveness of his dribbling. At the age of 13 he was playing for the junior team of the Prato club and already performing miracles!

This striker with his incredible acceleration wasn't missed by Luciano Moggi, the chief talent-scout of Juventus. Moggi advised the club to buy him. Paolo Rossi went to Turin but things didn't go well for him there: over a period of two years he had three operations on his knees due to various incidents. He was transferred to Como, but then again to Vicenza and this was like a re-birth for Paolo; he found new challenges and the 1976-1977 season was magic for him. He was top goal-scorer with 21 goals from 36 matches. And he was top again in the following year. Enzo Bearzot called him up for the national team. And so the legend of "Pablito" Rossi was born, of the finest striker in world football. The rest is current history: he went from Vincenza to Perugia, two years of inactivity, but then came his great return to Juventus in 1982, when his team won the Italian league championship. Bearzot believed in him and took him to Spain as chief centre-forward of the ambitious Italian squad which won the World Cup with their resounding defeat of Germany in the final, 3-1. Rossi headed the goal-scorers. His name was on everyone's lips, abroad as in Italy, and he showed his class from the beginning of the 1983-1984 Italian championship. The star-studded Juventus team was playing spectacular football and Rossi's goals delighted the crowds. The rest of his legend is still in the making . . .

Bruno Giordano has benefited immensely from his move to Napoli from Lazio and is striking the net for club and country. Ironically Giordano was also involved in the bribe scandal which ousted Rossi and also himself for 2 years. Giordano is 30 and holds 9 caps.

Young Sampdoria striker Roberto Mancini is also another well in the running along with Giuseppe Galderisi who play admirably as inside-forwards.

Italy seemingly has a dearth of goalscorers on paper but they must put it into practice. Veteran Pierino Fanna of champions Verona may also come into the reckoning.

As it stands the glory days of Espana '82 seem far removed but Italy have proven they can overcome form slumps fairly smartly once the big games start.

Though they have problems concerning the players also, as reported a couple of weeks ago, the leading Italian players are threatening to pull out of international matches if they cannot get satisfaction on the vexed matter of income tax.

When they won the World Cup in 982 they received huge bonuses which they claim were not taxable.

Italy's Finance Ministry has now produce a belated demand for tax, amounting to abut one-third of the cash the players received.

Also Fulvio Collovatti, the tall sweeper is in trouble with the Italian FA and is facing a six-month suspension, the outcome of his case is yet to be decided.

Since the win against West Germany in June of '82 Italy have gone down twice in a year to their arch-rivals, 1-0 and 2-1.

After a shockingly unimpressive European Championship qualifying campaign where Italy lost to Romania, Sweden (twice) and Czechoslovakia and had a 1-1 draw with Cyprus, they regrouped and got their act together to go 10 matches and nearly a year without defeat, including a 5-0 thrashing of Mexico (Rossi getting a hat-trick) 3-0 shutouts over Greece and Cyprus, 2-0 win over Poland, 2-1 wins over Eire and England and a 1-0 revenge over Sweden.

Then came those all too familiar crashes, 1-2 to Norway, 0-1 to Poland, 1-2 to West Germany, in all three games they had no luck, both Norway and Poland scoring from their only chances but no excuses can be given.

Paolo Rossi: "As usual Bearzot has been criticised, but I agree on the way he is running the national team 100 percent.

"It's the same as before the 1978 and 1982 World Cups. The Press are bagging us, so what's knew — there is still a long way to go before the Finals.

"In the last two World Cups, once we started playing well, the reporters miraculously changed their minds overnight.

"I think Italy can do something special in Mexico if we travel with the right attitude. As far my personal performance . . . well that's in the lap of the gods."

Don't be surprised to see Italy pace themselves in Group A, you see in Argentina 1978 they started well and tailed off. In '82 they exposed the secret of World Cup success. A slow start is ideal. A team needs to build itself towards the climax of the tournament.

In Group A they will meet Argentina, Bulgaria and South Korea. Unbelievably the meeting with Argentina will be the 4th in successive Word Cups.

In 1974 it was a 1-1 draw then Italy took the '78 match 1-0 (a goal by Bettega) and '82 was won 2-1. Currents odds on Italy are 11-1.

My View

Certain for second phase but may lack a playmaker if they don't call someone like Vignola into the squad.

Dossena may fill the bill but as ever only time will tell.

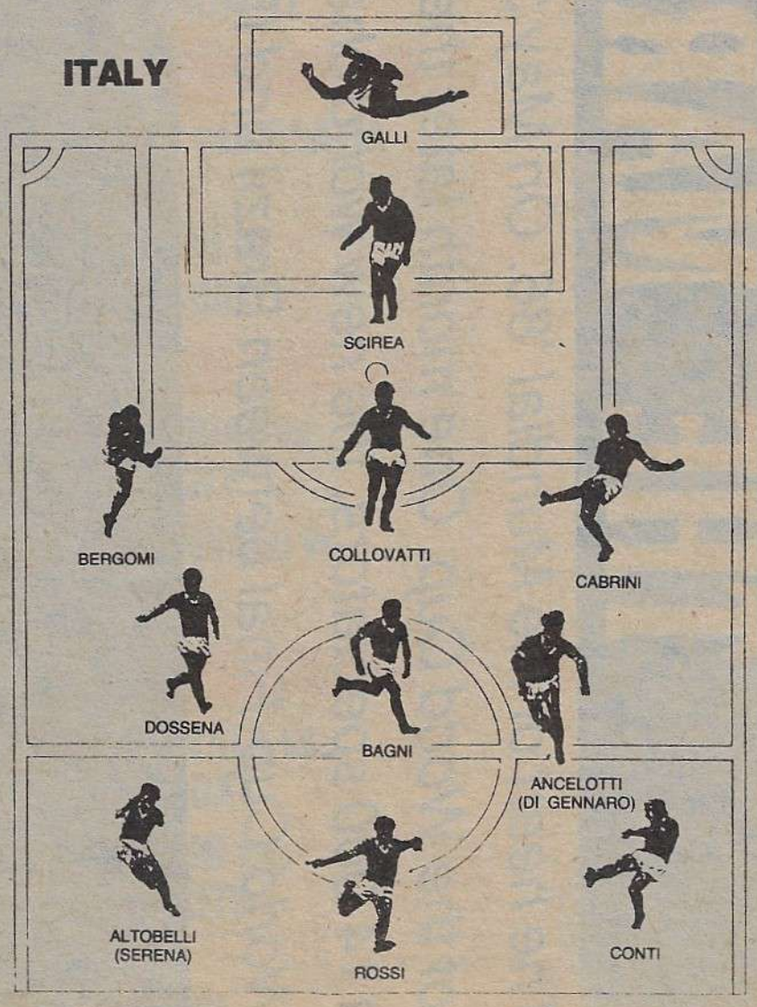
POSSIBLE SQUAD: TANCREDI, GALLI, BORDON, BERGOMI, COLLOVATTI, RIGHETTI, VIERCHOWOD, SCIREA, CABRINI, BARESI, NELA, BAGNI, DOSSENA, ANCELOTTI, DI GENNARO, CONTI, GALDERISI, SERENA, MASSARO, ROSSI, GIORDANO, ALTOBELLI.

WORLD CUP RECORD

1930: Did not play
1934: Champions 2-1 v Czechoslovakia
1938: Champions 4-2 v Hungary
1950: First Round /
1954: First Round
1958: Did Not Quality
1962: First Round
1966: First Round
1970: Runners-Up 1-4 v Brazil
1974: First Round
1978: Fourth
1982: Champions 3-1 v West Germany

NEXT WEEK: FOCUS ON ARGENTINA

BRUNO CONTI — Italy's king-pin.



THE MARVELLOUS ESTADIO AZTECA

The heart of the Mundial '86. On May 31, 1986, defending title holder Italy and Bulgaria will open the Final Competition of the World Cup. One month later the same stadium will be the place of triumph and defeat. In the presence of over 114 000 spectators, the new world champion will be chosen on June 29, 1986. In 1970 'The Azteca' hosted the World Cup Final between Brazil and Italy, eventually won by the mesmeric South Americans.

CUT-THROAT TACTICS AS TEAMS FEAR CUT-OFF?

THE mortality rate for coaches could be very high this year says Fairy Meadow coach and ASW's Mike Johnson.

The cut-off in the National League will dump many clubs back into their respective State League.

Club committees will not want that for their clubs and any team under the top five in the northern and southern divisions will be at risk.

Thus throughout the season, any coach with his team under the top five will be skating on very thin ice.

The same can be said for the State Leagues in NSW and Victoria where at least half of the clubs could find themselves down a division at the end of the season.

The pressure on the players, coaches and administrators will be immense, especially at clubs which have gone into debt in order to retain their status.

Blacktown City and Sydney Olympic have paid out massive amounts of money in order to buy success — as have Sydney Croatia.

If they are good players, new players can knit with the old brigade in a relatively short time.

The pressure for top places should ensure very competitive Soccer in the State and National Leagues of Victoria and NSW.

Hopefully, this will be seen in increased skill and endeavour, rather than increased bloodshed from teams desperate for points.

For Canterbury in NSW, the season could be very traumatic as they seek to retain status at top level which they won last year after many years of effort.

It is trying to help its cause by importing star players from Greece which it hopes will guest for an extended period.

Wollongong Macedonia which won the right to join the State League last year, is in the same position and is trying to boost its playing staff.

Wollonong, for some years without a club representative in either the State or National League, now has two State League representatives in Macedonia and Fairy Meadow, plus Wolves in the National League.

Wolves also know this is make or break year and have signed many new players.

Unfortunately for me, this includes five players from the successful Fairy Meadow team of last year.

Additionally, our captain, Reg Chilby, has retired and the club's best player award winner of last year, Paul Jones, has joined the police and is moving away from Wollongong.

So this year will be a mighty challenge for us to hang on to the State League spot we won two years ago.

One cannot but feel sympathy for the club officials of teams which will be under so much pressure this year from yet another change in league format.

If their teams are languishing, they will be put under pressure by their supporters to make changes and usually that means changing the coach.

Such intense competition can be good for a sport, so long as it nurtures wholesome, determined and courageous attitudes.

Referees and officialdom generally must try and ensure that this happens rather than cut-throat, law of the jungle tactics on and off the field.

BLACKTOWN CITY action — they have bought big.

NATIONAL LEAGUE POSES HUGE PROBLEMS FOR THE PLANNERS

THE vastness of Australia really comes to the fore when people talk of a truly National League involving every State.

The cost involved in, not only operating a League like that, but the cost to the clubs to participate without major sponsorship is huge.

It's not only at national level, though, that problems arise, Even State Federations have had their dreams of truly State-wide tournaments.

The latest casualty is in South Australia where Whyalla City, the steel town team, have had to pull out of the South Australian State League only a few weeks before the season starts.

Queensland's dream which lasted a few years with teams from as far away as Mareeba, Townsville, Bundaberg and Rockhampton, had to fold.

Even Tasmania, where distances are not that great, have reverted to a North and South Leagues.

Northern NSW also tried it a few years ago with teams from Tamworth, Grafton, Armidale and Coffs Harbour and again reverted to a League based around Newcastle.

These were all great ideas and probably the ideal situation if money is available.

Failing truly State leagues, the other solution is to have a State Cup similar to the National Cup.

At least this gives teams based on the outer the incentive and interest through having a chance to compete against the best.

THIS WEEK ASW's ALAN VEST comments on the problems of a real NSL.

A FAIR DINKUM NATIONAL CUP!

IT'S really pleasing to see the National Cup truly becoming national again.

I'll be watching with interest the results of the games when they start on March 23.

For the State League teams involved, it's a chance to match themselves against their National League counterparts.

The State League champions in States with National League teams in their areas will be gearing themselves up for their "game of the season."

They're difficult matches for the National League teams as the underdogs invariably lift their game and play above themselves.

For the State champions in West Australia and Tasmania, it's their only real taste of being involved with the rest of Australia, so their approach will be even more hectic.

Cup football usually causes some upsets and two sides I think might cause a stir are NSW's Melita Eagles and West Australian champions, West Perth Macedonia.

The National Cup.

SOCCEROOS NOW READY TO EAT THOSE KIWIS!

AFTER the cancellation of the proposed Russian visit to play the NSW State team, because of its supposedly being a second rate team, it's interesting to see the results of the five games played between the USSR and New Zealand's national team in various parts of NZ.

From five games the Russians won four with one drawn, the results 2-0, 1-0, 1-1, 2-0 and 4-2.

This seems to indicate that the Russian team was a very competent outfit.

The other indication, though, could be that after Australia's resounding win in the World Cup eliminations, that the Kiwi bubble has really burst and Frank Arok's men could really have the upper hand in future encounters.

With the talk of annual games between the two sides, and the eliminations for the Olympic Games in the near future, it will certainly be interesting to see if that has any foundation.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY
FIRST BEST AND BIGGEST
NUMBER ONE IN ITS FIELD, AUSTRALIA-WIDE!

INTER AND REAL SET FOR THE SEMI-FINALS

BIG wins for Italy's Inter Milan and Spain's Real Madrid were the main features in quarter final matches in the three European club competitions when the first legs were played.

But Juventus from Italy, the holders of the major trophy, the European Cup, face a difficult assignment trying to avoid elimination.

In the battle of the European giants, played at Nou Camp in Barcelona, the Spanish champions had a - 1 - 0 victory over Juventus.

Although that deficit does not appear too formidable, Juventus will have to fight all the way to win the second leg by two goals.

And, with Juve unable to score in Barcelona, they will be in big trouble if the second match gives them a 2 - 1 or 3 - 2 win.

Away goals count double and the Spanish side is very confident about surviving the return leg in Turin.

Harald Schumacher, the West German World Cup goalkeeper, was FC Cologne's hero as his team barely survived with a lucky 1 - 1 draw against Sporting in Lisbon.

The Portugese side dominated the match but Schumacher's brilliant goalkeeping robbed them of several goals.

But Sporting went ahead in the 54th minute through ex-Arsenal midfielder Raphael Meade whose shot was deflected wide of Schumacher.

By this time, the Lisbon side should have been well in front after all their first half pressure.

They could not even hang on to their precious 1-0 lead . . . Cologne being awarded a much-disputed penalty kick in the last minute of the match.

Klaus Allofs, the team captain, had to take the penalty twice, after his first effort was scrubbed by English referee George Courtney because a Cologme player had intruded into the area.

The Soviet Union which, despite its huge number of top players, rarely succeeds in European competitions, gave notice that it could supply the winner of this year's Cup-Winners Cup.

Dynamo Kiev beat last year's beaten finalists, Rapid Vienna, 4 - 1 in Vienna, a result which must surely give the Russians a clear passage into the semi-finals.

Bayern Munich, a strong tip to take the European Cup, could beat Belgium's Anderlecht only by the narrow margin of 2 - 1 in Munich.

The score gave no indication of the German team's superiority. Bayern should have won with goals to spare, but had to be content with the 2 - 1 result.

Barcelona goalscorer — Julio Alberto.

HUGO ON BALL

Action from the European Cup — with Real Madrid (Spain) against Switzerland's Xamax Neuchatel. Real's brillant Mexican international Hugo Sanchez evades a sliding tackle.

Slipshod defence caused Bayern to concede a vital late goal the scorer being Andersen.

Bayern had led 2 - 0 after goals by Dieter Hoeness and Roland Wolfarth but may yet regret not getting all the goals that were there for the taking.

As the German team's coach Udo Lattek summed-up later: "We should have won by five goals. We have a good chance in Brussels."

EUROPEAN CUP

Quarter finals, first leg: In Bucharest, Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 0 Kuusysi Lahti (Finland) 0; In Munich, Bayern Munich (West Germany) 2 Anderlecht (Belgium) 1; In Aberdeen, Aberdeen (Scotland) 2 Gothenburg (Sweden) 2; In Barcelona, Barcelona (Spain) 1 Juventus (Italy) 0.

CUP WINNERS' CUP

Quarter finals, first leg: In Prague, Dukla Prague (Czechoslovakia) 1 Benfica (Portugal) 0; In Dresden, Dynamo Dresden (East Germany) 2 Bayer Uerdingen (West Germany) 0; In Belgrade, Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 0 Atletico Madrid (Spain) 2; In Vienna, Rapid Vienna (Austria) 1 Dynamo Kiev (Soviet Union) 4.

UEFA CUP

Quarter finals, first leg: In Split, Hajduk Split (Yugoslavia) 1 Waregem (Belgium) 0; In Lisbon, Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 1 Cologne (West Germany) 1; In Milan, Inter Milan (Italy) 3 Nantes (France) 0; In Madrid, Real Madrid (Spain) 3 Neuchatel Xamax (Switzerland) 0.

Continued from page 3

a huge effort to minimise the problem.

"We have far more legal parking spaces than most football clubs and we do not charge motorists.

"In our match program, we even publish a diagram showing spectators where they may park — and, whenever a big crowd is expected, we warn the parking police.

"It is difficult to see what else the St George club can do — we certainly don't have the power to book motorists who block driveways!"

It would be a tragedy for Sydney Soccer if threats to cancel the lease at St George Stadium are carried out.

One of the very few genuine Soccer venues in Sydney, the stadium was created out of waste land and was developed in its early stages by an army of keen Saints fans working voluntarily.

Through the sweat of their brows, they created something out of nothing and it would be criminal if local government red tape ended it all now.

Some time ago, Warringah Rugby Union club also faced strong action from their Council landlords over the sale of alcoholic beverages at matches.

I understand that problem was overcome and indeed, liquor can now be bought at Narrabeen.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

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GRANVILLE DISTRICT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

Granville Youth League Trials for Under 15s are now being held every Monday and Wednesday, at Granville Park, Woodville Road,

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Professional Coaching available

Enquiries to Alan Maher
☎ 682 4105
Brian Grant 633 4847

THE JOHNNY WARREN PAGE

SOUTH AMERICAN MAGIC FOR THE CANBERRA FANS

A much-needed dose of South American magic will be injected into this year's NSL if Canberra City Olympians' new Peruvian international Angel Augusto Palacios Valdiviesco lives up to his reputation.

PORTAS® Über 450 PORTAS-Fachbetriebe in 10 Ländern Europas.
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Angel Augusto Palacios · Mittelfeldspieler

The whimsical, Angel Augusto Palacios Valdiviesco (above) has a big reputation to live up to when he 'dons' the Canberra City colours. (Below) is the Peruvian World Cup squad of 1978, of which Palacios (top right) was an integral part. Top right of page are the rest of that fine squad.

The 30 year old goalscoring midfielder has already completed contractual and immigration formalities and is due to arrive in Australia later this week.

Palacios comes to Canberra City via a Sydney agent.

According to Canberra City's hard-working secretary Tasso Samios, Palacios is the type of player required.

"He's a noted distributor and scorer in the area we are lacking at the moment," says Samios of his new signing.

"I know South Americans in the past have sometimes lacked the competitiveness in the tough Australian league but Augusto has played for several years in Europe in West Germany and Finland and is used to the more rugged style of football.

"He also had a spell in Hong Kong with Caroline Hill where he played with and against Australian players.

"So he knows what he's in for.

"Apart from that, his English is very good and I see no problem in the communications area even though coach Roy Thompson is a Scot."

Palacios' background is impressive.

He stands over 6 feet and has a proven goalscoring record from the centre midfield position.

Apart from overseas stints with Offenbach Kickers in the West German Bundesliga and KIP in Finland, Palacios has also played in Hong Kong plus a spell in Venezuela.

Palacios was a member of the 1978 Peruvian World Cup team which defeated Scotland in Argentina.

In the 1974 World Cup, as an 18 year old, he won pre-selection in the national team as he did in 1982, only to be refused a release from his Finnish club for the elimination matches.

Only last year, Palacios played for Sports Boys in the Peruvian first division, the team finishing the season in fifth place.

The Peruvian embassy in Canberra is delighted with the Palacios signing and have assured the club they will do everything possible to make Palacios feel at home in Canberra.

SELECCION PERUANA

Apart from Palacios, Canberra also completed arrangements for the signing of Dumbarton ace scorer John Bourke.

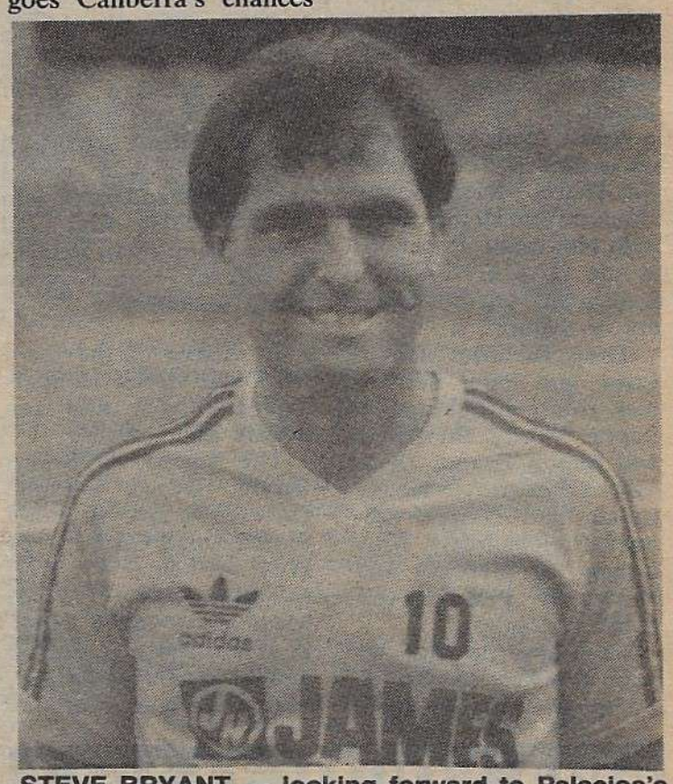
Dumbarton, desperately needing Bourke's services for its excellent promotion chances this year are unlikely to release him until mid-April.

Bourke, rated by Canberra City's Ian Gibson as "one of the best headers of the ball in Scotland" will, togerher with Palacios, add considerable aerial power to the Canberra attack this season.

Bourke, a 31 year old schooltecher, has scored more than 150 goals in top Scottish Leagues, has won international honours with the Scottish "B" team and has previously played with Kilmarnock and Dundee United.

The arrival of Palacios and Bourke will add much needed fire power to Canberra's attack for the forthcoming vital season.

And with its two new signings it is fair to say goes Canberra's chances of staying in the top league next year.



STEVE BRYANT — looking forward to Palacios's arrival.

POTATO SMITH'S CRISPS
THE ORIGINAL AND BEST

THE JUNIOR GAME

with TONY RACITI

A CENTRAL COAST MIRACLE?

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE absence of the thriving Central Coast from the 1986 NSW Youth League will do exactly nothing for the betterment of Soccer.

As reported in ASW on February 25, politicking by a couple of Central Coast officials in not seeking Northern NSW approval to compete in NSW blow up in their hands.

The nett effect is that the cream of Central Coast juniors have been barred from playing the high standard of Soccer that their abilities dictate.

In Soccer, as elsewhere in life, objectives and priorities have to be set.

The Central Coast has long had the objective of playing in Sydney.

It was however the Northern NSW First and Second Divisions that were open to them and that is where they have had to go to make their name.

Politics, it has been said with more than a modicum of truth, is "the art of the possible."

This precept should have been applied in the first place to ensure that there was no lack of continuity in Central Coast players competing in the Youth League.

Central Coast is reported to have now made application to Northern NSW to play in NSW Youth League, but there isn't a spot available to them at the moment.

It would take a double quick miracle to have them reinstated.

For the sake of the continuity of progress in NSW Central Coast Soccer it is well worth ago.

The Central Coast kids — they may have a miracle soon.

ILLAWARRA'S DETERMINED CHALLENGE

ILLAWARRA's strong band of junior enthusiasts believe that the district will soon rival Newcastle in producing a host of high quality soccer players.

This is a big claim as the Novocastrians have an enviable record in this regard.

Apart from local products such as Joe Senkalski, Ralph Maier, Bobby Naumov and all the others with Newcastle Rosebuds in the OASL, Newcastle have many talented players in Sydney.

They include: David Lowe and Peter Tredinnick (Marconi), Marshall Soper, Andy Stankovic and Simon Brandt (Sydney Olympic), Kerry Caban and Darren Stewart (Leichhardt), Tony Caban (St George) and Howard Tredinnick (Melita (Eagles).

The Illawarra Under 13 team that were so successful in this year's Ampol Cup have come from a team that was patchy in 1985 before their reinforcements arrived.

They went through their preliminary games undefeated and carried on to win their first and second semi-finals to make a further round robin game unnecessary.

In charge of the team has been Derek Henderson as coach and Ian Sellers as manager.

The squad is: Stuart Boyle, Derek Davies, Robert Davies, Brendon Flood, Dean Guest, Troy Henderson, Bill McClatchie, Paul Michlmayr, Derek Nosske, Paul Robaard, Steven Sambolic, David Sellers, Matthew Taylor, Anthony Timillero, Joel Ward.

It seems that Wollongong City and the other senior clubs of the district can look forward to some real talent emerging in a few years' time.

In one junior area this year the Illawarra boys will have the job in front of them.

Their Youth League unit has lost all but two of the 1985 squad and have had to rebuild in the hope of putting up respectable results this year.

They have lost out to Wollongong City, athletics, study, and local Illawarra Soccer clubs.

SIMON BRANDT — Illawarra product.

ACT STEPS IN

THE ACT Soccer Federation has approached the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation with a request that its junior representative teams be admitted into the NSW State Championships.

The idea is to draw their squads from the ACT Soccer Academy, in which youngsters are trained in Soccer skills by the best available experts.

If accepted the youngsters from Canberra and surrounding areas will have the opportunity to participate against some of Australia's best juniors on a yearly basis.

And that experience is something that has been missed over past years.

The NSW Amateur Federation should waste no time in coming to an accommodation with the ACT.

Both sides would gain.

It would be a step forward to recommencing dialogue with Northern NSW.

One of the great pities of Soccer over the Federation era has been the limitation of contact between Sydney and Newcastle in particular, and the breakup of the state in general.

Newcastle does not have to abdicate its wider interests in expanding Soccer throughout the North in order to compete more with Sydney.

The standard of Soccer must increase if the best players from all areas meet each other regularly.

But for starters here is hoping that the ACT, which after all is one Association, enters the NSW State Championships.

— KEITH GILMOUR

ACT Junior action.

OAK TURNER CUP

ENTRIES must be mailed immediately if schools are to qualify for participation in this year's KO Cup competition.

All entries go to John Moscovis, Epping Boys High School, 213 Vimiera Rd, Eastwood 2122.

The Oak Turner Cup is for boys 16 years and under and it has the tremendous advantage of covering schools right through the educational spectrum — public and private.

Thus you will find GPS, Associated, Catholic and non-alingned schools joining together in a major schools competition that this year is expected to draw over 300 entries.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY has been pleased to be closely associated with the Turner Cup ever since its inception eight years ago.

This year the huge Hunter Valley Co-operative Dairy Co Ltd has come in behind the Cup as major sponsor.

TURNER CUP ACTION

MARCONI'S 'BEST EVER'

MARCONI's Mini Ampol Cup Under 13 squad has received a tremendous wrap from their coach, Reg Turner.

He reckons that the team is the best he has seen in seven years coaching.

As the last four seasons have been in Marconi, who are certainly no slouches when in comes to fielding high quality junior teams, that is really saying something.

Last year he was on charge of the Under 14 team.

Marconi went through the Mini Ampol Cup undefeated, apart from one single loss to local rivals Southern Districts.

Their squad of 14 players comprised: Scott Preston, Robert Scarsella, Craig Bell, Nicky Glaven, Colin Belay, Rodney Sepping, Andrew Nazur, Johnny Cam, Jason Spagnol, Roman Ricolic, Paul Bourke, Craig Holmes, Rodrigo Palomino, Paul Richardson.

Dave Watson managed the squad and of course Reg Turner was the coach.

APIA YOUTH LEAGUE

Trials for APIA's Under 13
Youth League are being held every Monday and Thursday at Leichhardt Oval No. 2
(next to swimming pools)

from 6pm

Players are also required for Under 8's and Under 16s

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THE WOMENS SOCCER SCENE

International Profile

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

JULIE DOLAN

JULIE DOLAN, easily one of Australia's longest serving and most experienced player, is the current national captain.

Julie started playing Soccer as a 14 year old.

She maintains that she was influenced to take up the sport by her brothers.

Born January 5, 1961, Julie first gained selection for the national side in 1974.

A brilliant attacking midfielder, Julie is the senior member of the current Australian side.

Possessing a fine shot with either foot and a wonderful distributor, she has been classed as one of the best women players ever produced by Australia.

"Soccer over the years has become a large part of my life," Julie said.

"It has also provided me with a chance to see many parts of the world including New Zealand, the United States, Japan, New Caledonia, Hong Kong and Taiwan.".

Julie's style of play has been likened to that of former Australian World Cup captain, Johnny Warren.

One of the highlights in Julie's playing career was being selected to play in an Asian "All-Stars" team in Hong Kong back in 1975.

BORN: January 5, 1961.
BIRTHPLACE: Sydney.
OCCUPATION: Film Studies assistant.
PLAYING POSITION: Attacking midfielder.
CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Gymea, St George, Marconi, Ballina, Grange Thistle in Queensland and back in NSW last year with Killarney Heights.
CURRENT CLUB: Forest Rangers.
FAVOURITE WOMEN PLAYERS: Cindy Heydon, Toni McMahon, Joanne and Kerry Millman and Kim Lembryk.
FAVOURITE MEN OVERSEAS PLAYER: Glenn Hoddle of Spurs.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR CAREER: Jim Selby and my brothers.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN YOUR CAREER: "Not being able to travel to Haiwaii with the national team in 1983 because of lack of finance."
AMBITIONS IN WOMEN'S SOCCER: "Hopefully to be able to win a major tournament with the Australian team overseas.

"Also to make the Australian World Cup side in 1988."
SUPERSTITIONS IF ANY: None at all.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Surfing, hockey, touch football.
FAVOURITE FILM STARS: Al Pacino and Jessica Lange.
PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LOVE TO MEET: Glenn Hoddle.
MAKE OF CAR OWNED: Honda Prelude.
FAVOURITE T.V.PROGRAMME: The Young Ones.
WHAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO IMPROVE SOCCER FOR WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA: "Professionalism in administration at all levels."
THOUGHTS ON THE COMING OCEANIA CUP IN N.Z.: "We should take it out as we must beat New Zealand to be able to look further ahead in our World Cup campaign in 1988.

"It would be nice if a lot more nations were also involved in this Cup."
WHO WILL WIN THE 1986 WORLD CUP IN MEXICO: "Italy, Brazil or West Germany. It is a very hard one to pick as climatic conditions will again play a major role in Mexico."

SHOCK PULL OUT FOR NEW ZEALAND BY NSW

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

FIVE of the best Women players in this country dropped a bombshell when they decided to pull out of the Australian team that will travel to New Zealand later this month for the second Oceania Cup Tournament.

Australia's captain, Julie Dolan, defenders Mandi Langlaar and Toni McMahon plus midfielders Cindy Heydon and Margaret Petrov, have all pulled out of the Australian squad.

The news sent shock waves through the ranks of Women's Soccer.

The reason given for the mass-withdrawal was that the NSW players were all under great financial strain to make the trip.

TELEGRAM

First sign of trouble surfaced when the National Executive Director of the A.W.S.A, Ms Heather Reid, based in Canberra, received a telegram from the Executive of NSWWASF, confirming the shattering withdrawal of the five players, all from NSW.

At this stage, it is believed that all five girls are fed up with the constant financial strain of having to pay for air-fares, accommodation, gear etc, to represent their country.

Ms Heather Reid told ASW: "Once we were fully aware of the situation, we offered some assistance in the form of staggered payments to be made by the players in financial trouble."

However, somewhat contradictory to this grievience, two of the players had already paid in their deposits of $375:00 of a total amount of some $550:00 due.

Added to this, the NSW Soccer Federation has pledged to each of the five players a subsidy of $100:00 to help ease their financial burden.

STUNNED COACHES

Fred Robins, on the eve of his final preparation of the National squad at the A.I.S. prior to departing for Christchurch, said last night from Brisbane when contacted:

"I am shocked and bitterly disappointed.

"They have cut up the team badly as now I have lost almost my entire midfield."

Former national coach over the previous eight years, Jim Selby, said from the Gold Coast angrily:

"This is a terrible state of affairs by NSW as all the girls ever since Day One, and by that I mean as far back as 1974, knew the score.

"The girls have always known that they were up for airfaires and accommodation expenses. They have always known the score, so why now on the eve of their departure must they take such drastic actions?."

URGENT PLEA

So much for the facts concerned in this matter.

Now for my opinion.

The timing of the whole present rebellion, withdrawal or whatever you would like to call it, has been ill-conceived, ill-timed and most damaging to Australia.

That in a nutshell is the whole bottom line.

I'm not heartless and truly feel, plus fully understand the girls' predicament as the national players over the last three years well know it.

Be it publicity or sponsorship, Australian Soccer Weekly has more than contributed.

I still have their letters of gratitude on file.

But to endorse Selby's comment, all the players throughout Australia "knew the score from Day One".

Another point. Where do the players, or for that matter officials, believe the AWSA could finance the entire expedition?

The answer is quite elementary.

They can't, simply because they do not have, or ever had, the financial strength to do so.

The cry from the playing ranks is why haven't sponsorships been organised by the National Executive Director, Ms Reid?

The answer to this is again relatively simple.

Ms Reid has only been in that position since last month, and not being "Mandrake", to date, has not been able to raise large funds.

However, tracksuits, bags, towels, training balls, training shirts and a new playing strip have been organised for the Australian squad, plus a small cash allocation by a firm.

Not exactly too bad for a start would you not think?

SPONSORS

That in itself is a reasonable acquisition for the short time Ms Reid has held her Canberra position. Surely?

As all Soccer administrators are fully aware off, sponsorships in our code, be it for Men or Women, are ever-so difficult to get.

In fact, today, there are three NSL Clubs in the Men's code who have started the season without a solitary single cent from a sponsor. And that is for semi-professional clubs.

One of the clubs has a fulltime administrator who has searched heaven and earth to try and crack one.

But most of all, why did NSW wait till the last minute to pull this stunt?

This NSW boycott, intentionally, (but hopefully unintentionally), has 'torpedoed' the Australian team, forcing the national coach to urgently seek, completely inexperienced substitutes.

Fred Robins is currently looking at Tasmania's Lisa Radar, Victoria's Andrea Martin, Northern Territory's Sarah Cooper and Julie Murray from the ACT.

Such action by NSW has virtually underwritten Australia's crucifiction in the Oceania Cup by the powerful New Zealand A team, not to mention Taiwan's crack national side which has already beaten Australia in 1984 in the "WWIFT".

New Zealand as well has walloped Australia the last two occasions these two Oceanic nations have met.

I am aware of the problems within the AWSA.

This action by the NSW contingent will NOT solve any of these problems within the national body.

In fact quite the opposite. It has now created greater rifts than ever before.

All this rebel-action will achieve immediately, is that Australia's team will be butchered in Christchurch; Australia will have insulted New Zealand as well as Taiwan, by forcing the AWSA to send an inferior side across the Tasman to do combat.

Before I feel any sympathy for any player, players or officials, Australia comes first over EVERYBODY.

ALWAYS.

I strongly urge the NSW National players to meet together, very seriously reconsider the situation, and if they decide to reverse their decision not to travel to New Zealand, to contact their coach, Mr Fred Robins immediately in Brisbane.

Only for the sake of Australia.

This would not be a backward step. Far from it.

No matter what happens, Australia MUST go to New Zealand, and WILL . . . that is a MUST.

And a plea to the AWSA. Please hear them out.

The quicker Julie, Margaret, Toni, Mandi and Cindy decide in this direction, the better for Australia and the players themselves.

This is not the way that could possibly bring down the curtain on their international career.

Last year in the National Soccer League for Men, the players of the Australian team were instructed idiotically by their own NSL clubs to boycott an International Series being played here.

The Series involved matches by Australia against Manchester United, Nottingham Forest and Juventus.

Thankfully, despite the clubs' evil and most irresponsible intentions to sabotage the Series, the players themselves neutralised such idiotic directives by turning up to national training sessions, ready to play.

The Series went ahead smoothly, and the clubs were made to look ridiculous.

On a personal note, the matter has developed into a no-win situation with Australia suffering.

Immediately after the Oceania Cup tournament has been completed, then and only then, an urgent meeting by all State delegates must be held to seriously discuss this matter with the AWSA which does not only concern NSW.

Believe me it is one affecting all players nationally.

It is quite obvious that this matter will not be swept under the carpet.

UNITY

The problem is not only the concern of the AWSA. It also concerns all States and they must help out, not declare war.

There is no winner. But the code of Women's Soccer MUST survive this trauma, and can, but only if ALL PARTIES give themselves.

Over the years, the players have done this.

Now it's over to all the administrators, club, state and national, to work together harmoniously for solutions.

If they cannot do this, they should get out of the code as they are bringing harm to the girls.

Some administrators shouldn't even be there. And some are harder to shift than the Philippines' Marcos.

Unity can only bring strength and the strength of the Women's Soccer "chain" can only be as strong as its weakest link.

Rebel players in the past, whether they were cricketers, Soccer players or any other code, the dividends have in the long run been less than poor, not to mention the damaged image brought to their sport.

Give to Australia. Now.

A stunned national coach, Fred Robins, when contacted in Brisbane last night, told ASW: "I am shocked and bitterly disappointed.

"They have cut up the team badly."

THE NEW LEAGUE SEEKING CLUBS

In this first article, I will give my view for the year ahead and present some of the more controversial matters that are in store for 1986.

BY UWE BRACKLOW

After some hiccups at the start, a very experienced committee has been elected at NSW where some of the old stagers like Leonie Parker, Alan Lyton, Phil Witcombe and Lay Byers have returned to the Women's Soccer scene.

Some of the members of the last committee like Terry Broughton and Phil Hiron have been joined by new blood, Tim Dyce, Daniell Dyce, Arthur Thornton, Ron Taliana, David Broughton and yours truly to give this committee diversified experience.

This committee is now in the process of setting this year's programme. The main item this year at State level is the State Titles on the Queen's Birthday weekend, where for the first time U/15, U/17 and Seniors will all compete at the one venue.

Another exciting item will be the National Junior Titles to be held in Sydney in early July — the venues Barton Stadium and Sydney Athletic Field.

After long deliberation and negotiation, a new League has been started to replace the old State League.

To allow NSW to foster the youth and assist all the associations in developing their areas this new Women's Soccer League (or WSL) will be run by a Board of Directors and delegates from the competing clubs.

The Board consists of Lal Byers, Phil Witcombe, Uwe Bracklow, Tim Dyce and Alan Lytton.

The new rules have been laid out to align ourselves with senior Soccer as played both here and overseas in men's and women's competition.

All games will be 45 minutes each way and there will be a first and reserve grade in each club.

An up-to-date score service is envisaged in this paper each week.

There are six clubs entered already but we would consider application from clubs who can field a first and reserve team although a maximum 10 clubs will be allowed.

The starting clubs are Parramatta City, Forrest United, Manly-Warringah, Putney Town, Girraween United and Chipping Norton Colts.

Anyone wishing to know more is invited to write to me being the League Secretary/Manager at P.O. Box 17 Moorebank. 2170, or phoning 601 6560.

To close, I would like to extend congratulations to Alan Lytton for his appointment as National assistant coach and the selection fo Cindy Heydon, Mandy Langlaar, Margaret Petrov, Julie Dolan and Toni McMahon to the national team to tour New Zealand.

TOP-LEVEL CLUBS WANTED

WOMENS SOCCER LEAGUE

First + Reserve Grade

Application to:

WSL Secretary/Manager
U Bracklow
P.O. Box 17
MOOREBANK 2170
✆ 601 4560

HISTORY WAS MADE ON THIS 1934 DAY

says DAVID JACK

THIS is an historic picture. It shows no fewer than seven Arsenal players who played for England on one day — the 1934 international against Italy at Highbury on November 14.

Never before, or since, has one club supplied so many players in an English international line-up.

The players are (from left) . . . Wilf Copping, Ray Bowden, George Male, Frank Moss, Ted Drake, Eddie Hapgood and Cliff Bastin.

Officials in the group are Arsenal manager George Allison and trainer Tom Whittaker.

The match, won 3-2 by the English team, was known as "The Battle of Highbury."

It was one of the roughest internationals ever seen in Britain, with the Italian players universally condemned for their refusal to play to the Laws of the Game and their apparent determination to kick everyone and everything.

This picture was published in "Football Monthly" some 30 years after the infamous match was played and the magazine summed up Italy's performance with the comment "The Italians forgot the rules!"

Weadley taking the ball from Piola, at Italy, 1939.

Arsenal's England seven of 1934: Copping, Bowden, Male, Moss, Drake, Hapgood, Bastin. Left and right flanks—manager George Allison and trainer Tom Whittaker.

MARCONI'S MOMENTS

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

A STRONG air of optimism has been felt around Marconi these last few days as the first round of the 1986 National Soccer League season fast approaches.

It may be the sudden return of leading goalscorer Mark Jankovics to the club after looking certain to transfer to Blacktown City. It could be the first appearance of central striker Rod Brown after his nagging injury or it may have something to do with the election of NSL vice chairman Tony Labbozzetta as the new president of Club Marconi.

Whatever it is, the club is buzzing with high expectations for the coming season.

This may all seem a little strange coming so soon after the team's 3-0 defeat by Sydney Olympic in the Ampol Cup quarter finals; however the quality of the football displayed by Marconi that day could not be discounted. In fact coach Les Scheinflug summed it all up when he said "I've never liked losing but on this occasion our defeat may turn out to be a blessing in disguise for the season ahead.

"This team is far too good to engage itself in the type of mayhem that was on show against Olympic. The boys now realise that if they concentrate on football as they did during the second half, there are very few teams in the league that can match them."

As well as the belated return of Brown and Jankovics, Scheinflug is confident of signing another striker to complete his squad. Negotiations are continuing with Inter Monaro for the transfer of left winger Tony Brennan and these should be concluded by the end of this week.

The election of club president Tony Labbozzetta has finally cleared up all the uncertainty that was caused by the postponment of the annual elections from last November.

As Labbozzetta told the players when he addressed them during the week: "It's now all systems go for success. The club will do everything in its power to ensure it. The rest is up to you on the field. Labbozzetta has also indicated that he is anxious to improve facilities at the Marconi Stadium, and feasibility studies will soon be carried out in order to convert into it into one of the best Soccer stadiums in Sydney.

When the side was knocked out of the Ampol Cup, Scheinflug organised a series of practice games which will maintain the match fitness that the team has reached. The first of these was when Marconi travelled to Brisbane for a match against NSL club Brisbane Lions and continued on Saturday morning at Marconi Stadium when they played Sydney City.

Scheinflug has also accepted an inviation to participate in an eight team competition organised by St George which will be played at St George stadium, Marconi stadium and possibly the Croatia Sports Centre.

The remaining matches are scheduled for Friday 14th and Sunday 16th, with the final on Wednesday 19th March.

These matches will ensure that the players are at the peak of their fitness when the first round of the National Soccer League Cup is played on the 23rd of March, followed by the first competition match at Wollongong on Easter Sunday.

"I don't mind him kissing me when I score a goal, but now he's started asking if he can take me to the pictures!"

MELITA'S STAND

MELITA EAGLES have been called often one of the most progressive clubs in NSW and this picture proves why.

This imposing covered grand stand build at Melita Stadium at a cost of $500,000 will be officially opened by the Premier of NSW, Neville Wran, on April 6.

The president of Melita Eagles, Lawrence Dimech, said that the NSL cannot ignore Melita much longer. It now has some of the best facilities in Sydney, certainly the only covered stand (capacity 1,200 seated) in the outer western suburbs catering for Soccer.

Melita were bandled out of the 1984 NSL to protect the so-called regional teams.

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

TRIUMPH FOR CROWEATERS

BY VIC MIGLIACCIO

AS SA opened its 150 Year Jubilee celebrations, it was appropriate that the State Soccer team returned home in triumph from their first overseas visit in January.

They brought with them the magnificent DCM, All India trophy, valued at over $12,500.

SA became the first Australian side to take the prestigious prize, and every supporter, player and official is proud of them.

What Australia failed to achieve in the way of major tournaments in 1985 was capped by the South Australia State team.

Technically, it can be said that South Australia has the best State team in the country and no one I believe, can dispute that claim.

To be realistic about it, because all competitions involving senior State teams have been overlooked since the introduction of the National League in 1977, the claim cannot be proved. This has not been the fault of the SA Soccer Federation who have on many occasions tried to convince other Federations around the country that, for the benefit of the game, State teams should play yearly against each other.

This would not only decide which State has the best side, but it would also give Federation officials a chance to meet and discuss various points on how to improve the game.

A much-needed exercise.

SA Soccer Federation secretary Peter Nickolich said "The SASF phone number is 340 0688 and we are always open for suggestions." He did state that any opposition has to be a true State team, not a club side.

SA coaching director Mike Wells who was the architect of SA's greatest triumph in India, said that the side is morally obliged to return to defend the trophy in India.

"We are no longer seeking matches purely within Australia. However should another State wish to play us, we would consider the matter," said Wells.

Over to you George Wallace (Victoria), Aulden Brown (NSW) and other Federation secretaries.

South Australian captain Bugsy Nyskohous lifts the All India trophy after his State's victory in that competitions final.

ADELAIDE CITY goalkeeper, WILLIE McNALLY is assisted by "STAR SOCCER SHOP" manageress Margaret Levett in conducting last Saturday's draw. The lucky winner was Gabriel Plantesosi.

THE QUIZ

HERE is your last chance to enter in the "ASW — STAR SOCCER SHOP" QUIZ.

All you have to do is write the answer on the back of an envelope and post or deliver to SOCCER QUIZ c/o Star Soccer Shop, 606 Lower North East Rd. Campbelltown 5074 SA by Saturday morning. This week's draw will be conducted at the shop by Adelaide City defender Nev Flounders at 11am.

The first correct entry drawn will win a N5 MITRE SKILL SOCCER BALL. Five consolation double passes for the Adelaide City-Footscray match on April 6 at Olympic Sports Field will also be given away.

If you can't attend and you are a winner, the prize will be posted to you direct.

This week's question is: Name the former SA player who is now playing for Sydney City and is the current Socceroo captain.

— VIC MIGLIACCIO

1986 OAK TURNER CUP ENTRY FORM

SCHOOL: _____ SHIRT COLOURS: _____

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PHONE: _____ EXPECTED HOME GROUND: _____

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MANAGER: _____ (Given Name) SURNAME

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Principal's Signature: .....

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WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1986.

SEND ENTRIES TO:

John Moscovis,
Epping Boys' High School,
213 Vimiera Road, EASTWOOD, 2122.

Illawarra Jottings

WITH PHIL MURPHY

ARIS won the Illawarra grand final last season and coach Robert Fryer isn't letting the grass grow under his feet.

The only loss from last season is Mark Vinton to Oak Flats but the big signing for Aris is diminutive winger Nicky Greathead.

Greathead has proved himself a big crowd-pleaser with Berkeley and Shellharbour and should do equally as well with Aris.

Fast and with plenty of ability when it comes to scoring goals, he will be just what Fryer needs.

While Aris excelled in defence and midfield at different times last year they often lacked drive in attack.

■ ■ ■

Tony McDonald has taken over as coach of first division Oak Flats and this is good news for the youngsters at the club.

McDonald, an FA coaching badge holder, has had plenty of success with his policy of giving every young player a chance if he has the right attitude.

It has proved particularly successful at Berkeley and Shellharbour.

In 1974, McDonald took a very young Berkeley side to a grand final win and is confident Oak Flats will do well after being relegated last year.

McDonald is also a keen long distance runner and will probably be a lot fitter than most of his players through the year.

■ ■ ■

Tarrawanna struggled in the premier league last season but coach Gary Masters is hopeful points will be a lot easier to come by this year.

Masters is getting a useful first grade squad together and a big gain has been striker Claud Cellini, formerly with Corrimal and Bellambi.

Cellini is a fast, direct front-runner who will certainly add a lot of punch to Tarrawanna's attack.

Another striker to sign up is Bobby Toth, who was with Corrimal and Wollongong Macedonia while two promising youngsters from Balgownie, Andrew Naylor and Steve Morgan, have also joined the "blues".

BELLAMBI REUNION

BY PHIL MURPHY

BELLAMBI will have one ex-player arriving from America when they stage a 25th reunion on March 22.

Former striker Carl Minor has promised organisers Robert Banks and Frank Brindley he will be at Woonona-Bulli RSL Club for the big night.

Minor travels back to Australia regularly on business and will make sure his next trip coincides with the reunion.

St George rugby league star Craig Young is a former Bellambi goalkeeper and he will be there.

Young's father, Bob, a former international during his days with Corrimal, coached Bellambi for many years and his other son, Warwick, now with Wollongong City, is another Bellambi "old boy".

Bellambi are probably one of the better known Illawarra clubs, having gained a reputation in the old State Cup back in 1976.

That year they reached the last eight after some great giant-killing performances and played the might of the old Yugal team in the quarter-finals.

More than 5000 people turned up at Woonona Oval that night to see Bellambi stage a magnificent performance.

A goal down in the first half they stormed back to level at 1-1 only to have a former Illawarra junior, Billy Edwards, score Yugal's winner close to full-time.

Banks, who led Bellambi for many years, played against Yugal and told ASW it was a great night for South Coast soccer.

"Bob Young coached us that season and he really made us believe we could beat any team," Banks said.

"The Bellambi players did as much as any amateur side could do in that match against Yugal and we will be replaying it a few times during the reunion."

Tickets are still available from Banks or Brindley at just $10 each and the night is being sponsored by Illawarra Credit Union.

Wide World of Football

PADDY IS NOT CELEBRATING

SOME Irishmen with nationalistic leanings are very upset about Englishman Jackie Charlton getting the plum job of national team manager for the Republic of Ireland.

They claim the position ought to be filled by an Irishman and bearing in mind the traditional hatred of many Irishman for the English, that is understandable.

But, even if Charlton had not been appointed, the job would have gone to another foreigner.

When the short-list was reduced to two, Charlton just pipped 65 year old Bob Paisley, former Liverpool boss.

Jackie Charlton admits he has never seen the Republic of Ireland team in action and, as a club manager, he never signed Irish players for Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday or Newcastle United.

STARS FACE SACK!

IT seems inconceivable that the Republic of Ireland should think about dumping two of its favourite international stars, Liam Brady and Frank Stapleton.

But this could happen — and quite soon.

The Irish are starting to build for the 1990 World Cup. Both Brady and Stapleton are 30 and could be well past their best in four years time.

Here's an old Irishism . . . Northern Ireland, comprising six counties, has qualified for the World Cup three times — in 1958, 1982 and 1986. The Republic of Ireland has 26 counties but has never qualified for a World Cup.

FRANK STAPLETON

REID READY TO TAKE OVER

EVERTON midfielder Peter Reid, who returned only recently from a bad injury, is the hot tip to put Ray Wilkins out of England's World Cup side.

Wilkins, a loyal England servant, has not been in top form this season and it is significant that Everton's Reid was brought in to England's squad for last week's World Cup warm-up against Israel.

But Wilkins will still be a valuable member of the Cup squad — particularly if Bryan Robson and Glenn Hoddle cannot shake off their injury headaches.

PETER REID (below), ready to take Ray Wilkins' place in the England side.

EL TEL FOR SPURS

SOME of the biggest managerial jobs in English football could become vacant at the end of the season — and that's why everyone is tipping the successful Terry Venables to quit Barcelona to return home.

Latest tip is that Tottenham Hotspur, where Venables used to play, are very anxious to lure him from Spain.

If this does happen, Barcelona could replace El Tel with another British boss — former Welsh international and Liverpool goalscorer, John Toshack.

Toshack is now boss of Real Sociedad and the club has enjoyed a great run of success since he took over.

ARE IMPORTS REALLY IN TOP CLASS?

ENGLISH newspapers have produced thousands of words about the success of players who have transferred from English clubs to the Italian League.

But the question that must be asked is . . . "have those mercenaries really set Italy alight?"

The answer is sobering. Italy conducted a poll to name its top 55 players recently. Not one of the seven imports from the British Isles could make the list!

It seems Mark Hateley, Trevor Francis, Liam Brady, Gordon Cowans, Paul Rideout, Graeme Souness and Ray Wilkins are definitely not the darlings of the Italian fans.

MARK HATELEY, one of Britain's much vaunted players in the Italian League — yet he and his six friends are not doing very well.

ITALY SENDS FOUR

IT is interesting to analyse the way Brazil's World Cup squad players are spread around.

In the 29 names released by coach Tele Santana, 12 are from Sao Paulo, eight from Rio, two each from Minas Gerais and Rio Grande do Sol, one from Parana and four from clubs in Italy.

Seems Sao Paulo has the edge on Rio in the constant rivalry between the national's top two cities.

PAT NEVIN (below) staking his claim.

NEVIN STAKES HIS CLAIM

PAT NEVIN of Chelsea is recognised as one of the most skilful forwards in Britain but he still hasn't convinced Scotland boss Alex Ferguson that he's worth taking to Mexico for the World Cup.

Trouble is, Ferguson reckons he has about 12 candidates for six front line positions in his 22-man squad.

So six of them will be very disappointed. Including, perhaps, Pat Nevin, whose skills look superior to most Scottish forwards going around.

NAPOLI HANG ON TO MARADONA

SOUTH AMERICA countries are starting to gear up for this year's World Cup in Mexico but warm-up matches have been pointless in many cases.

Trouble is, many clubs flatly refused to release their stars to play for Brazil and Argentina.

When Argentina, for instance, requested the release of Diego Maradona from Napoli, the Italian club did not even reply to the request.

Who can blame Napoli who have invested some $9,000,000 in Maradona?

Another Argentinian, Daniel Passaralla, has been refused his release by Italy's Fiorentina.

Brazil's Italian exiles, Junior, Cerezo, Edinho and Dirceu, also, were not permitted to join Brazil's European tour squad.

Tele Santana, the Brazilian national coach, picked an interesting 29 names for his preliminary World Cup squad.

These included 13 who have represented Brazil in previous World Cups, seven current internationals, seven from the Olympic Games and Youth teams and only two new faces.

Clearly Santana is banking on players he knows and can trust.

Since the 1982 World Cup, Santana has been coaching in Saudi Arabia and it is not surprising he has by-passed young players who have come to the fore since then in the Brazilian domesic championship.

(Above) Argentine superstar DIEGO MARADONA is upended against Hungary. The multi-millionaire Soccer player is being held onto tightly by his Italian club, Napoli — after an expenditure of well over $9,000,000. Who can really blame them?

FLOWERS SWITCH

TIM FLOWERS of Wolves is the top goalkeeper target in English football and hard-up Wolves can surely not hang on to such a valuable player much longer.

Tottenham Hotspur fancy Flowers as a successor to Ray Clemence but they will have to outbid champions Everton who, last season, made a $4,000,000 bid for the player.

Flowers has now asked Wolves to put him on the transfer list — so there should be action on his move soon.

One of West Germany's trumps — FELIX MAGATH.

GERMANS HEAD FOR HEIGHTS

WEST GERMANY has established a pre-World Cup training camp at La Paz in Bolivia.

It is a very wise move because La Paz has an altitude consistent with what many teams will experience when they play in Mexico.

But detractors of the German side claim it'll take more than wise planning for their team to have any chance of winning the Cup!

The World Scoreboard

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	31	20	5	6	71	35	65
Liverpool	32	17	9	6	63	35	60
Man Utd	30	18	5	7	52	24	59
Chelsea	28	17	6	5	46	29	57
West Ham	26	15	6	5	42	24	51
Luton	31	14	9	8	48	33	51
Arsenal	28	14	7	7	36	31	49
Sheff Wed	30	14	7	9	49	46	49
Notts Fst	30	14	4	12	52	43	46
Newcastle	29	12	9	8	42	43	45
Tottenham	31	12	5	14	47	38	41
Man City	32	11	8	13	36	42	41
Watford	27	11	6	10	46	43	39
Southhamp	30	10	7	13	38	41	37
Coventry	32	9	8	15	44	56	35
Q.P.R.	31	10	4	17	32	49	34
Leicester	29	7	9	13	39	52	30
Oxford	30	7	8	15	45	57	29
Ipswich	29	8	5	16	23	40	29
Aston Villa	30	5	10	15	32	49	25
Birmingham	31	7	4	20	22	47	25
W.B.A.	31	3	7	21	25	73	16

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	30	18	7	5	61	28	61
Portsmouth	31	17	5	9	51	27	56
Charlton	28	15	6	7	52	31	51
Wimbledon	29	14	7	8	39	29	49
Hull	31	13	9	9	54	45	48
Crystal P	30	13	7	10	38	35	46
Brighton	29	12	7	10	49	44	43
Sheff Utd	29	12	7	10	47	43	43
Barnsley	30	11	9	10	32	31	42
Stoke	31	10	12	9	39	40	42
Oldham	32	12	6	14	49	51	42
Grimsby	32	11	8	13	47	50	41
Blackburn	30	10	9	11	36	42	39
Bradford	27	12	3	12	32	38	39
Shrewsbury	32	11	6	15	41	50	39
Leeds	31	11	5	15	40	52	38
Millwall	27	11	4	12	42	42	37
Huddersfld	30	9	10	11	41	48	37
Sunderland	31	9	7	15	33	49	34
Middlesbro	30	8	7	15	29	39	31
Fulham	26	8	3	15	26	35	27
Carlisle	28	5	6	17	26	55	21

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	31	22	4	5	51	36	70
Gillingham	34	16	11	7	61	39	59
Wigan	32	16	9	7	59	32	57
Derby	28	16	8	4	56	22	56
Walsall	32	17	5	10	65	43	56
Notts Cty	33	14	10	9	52	44	52
Doncaster	35	13	12	10	35	40	51
Plymouth	32	14	8	10	51	43	50
Bristol C	34	13	11	10	51	47	50
Blackpool	34	13	10	11	53	37	49
York	32	13	7	12	52	43	46
Brentford	32	13	7	12	36	43	46
Rotherham	32	11	10	11	44	37	43
Bristol R	30	12	6	12	39	45	42
Chesterfld	33	9	12	12	39	43	39
Bolton	34	11	6	17	38	47	39
Bournemth	34	10	8	16	47	51	38
Newport	33	7	14	12	33	45	35
Cardiff	35	9	7	19	41	62	34
Swansea	35	9	6	20	31	63	33
Bury	31	8	8	15	43	49	32
Darlington	28	8	7	13	42	54	31
Lincoln	31	6	11	14	37	59	29
Wolves	31	6	7	18	37	69	25

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	32	23	1	8	49	30	70
Chester	35	17	12	6	66	37	63
Mansfield	32	19	6	7	57	33	63
Stockport	35	16	10	9	52	46	58
Port Vale	34	15	12	7	55	30	57
Hartlepool	32	17	6	9	51	38	57
Orient	32	13	10	9	53	41	49
Southend	32	13	8	11	47	49	47
Burnley	32	13	7	12	46	45	46
Northampt	32	13	6	13	58	41	45
Tranmere	33	13	5	15	59	51	44
Colchester	31	12	8	11	55	47	44
Hereford	32	12	7	13	52	51	43
Wrexham	33	12	7	14	48	61	43
Rochdale	31	11	9	11	42	47	42
Exeter	33	9	10	14	29	41	37
Peterbor	30	8	12	10	39	45	36
Aldershot	30	10	6	14	38	44	36
Halifax	32	9	9	14	41	52	36
Crewe	33	9	9	15	37	50	36
Scunthorpe	32	8	10	14	32	42	34
Cambridge	34	9	5	20	48	72	32
Preston	34	6	8	20	36	64	26
Torquay	30	6	7	17	25	58	25

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	28	14	9	5	44	28	37
Dundee Utd	26	13	9	4	43	21	35
Aberdeen	27	13	8	6	49	24	34
Celtic	26	12	8	6	41	31	32
Rangers	29	12	7	10	42	31	31
Dundee	28	11	6	11	36	44	28
St Mirren	25	9	4	12	32	39	22
Hibernian	27	7	6	14	37	51	20
Clydebank	28	5	6	17	24	57	16
Motherwell	24	4	5	15	22	44	13

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamilton	25	15	7	3	54	26	37
Dumbarton	27	13	7	7	46	35	33
Kilmarnock	29	13	7	9	47	39	33
Falkirk	26	12	6	8	36	22	30
Forfar	26	10	8	8	33	31	28
East Fife	28	8	11	9	38	39	27
Morton	30	9	9	12	41	50	27
Brechin	24	10	4	10	40	40	24
Ayr	28	8	8	12	29	45	24
Airdrie	25	8	7	10	36	29	23
Montrose	27	6	11	10	30	39	23
Partick	26	7	9	10	32	43	23
Clyde	25	6	9	10	26	37	21
Alloa	24	5	7	12	31	44	17

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Q O'Sth	25	17	6	2	50	16	40
Dunfermlin	24	15	7	2	58	33	37
Queen's Pk	28	14	5	9	43	31	33
M'bank	27	11	9	7	46	35	31
Arbroath	27	12	7	8	44	34	31
St Johnst	25	13	2	10	46	35	28
Stirling	25	10	5	10	35	30	25
Raith	26	9	6	11	47	46	24
Cowdenbth	25	9	6	10	34	35	24
E Stirling	25	8	3	14	29	41	19
Stenhousem	23	8	2	13	36	51	18
Berwick	26	5	8	13	34	51	18
Stranraer	27	6	3	18	27	57	15
Albion	25	5	5	15	26	60	15

SPAIN

V'dolid v Cadiz	3-0
Re Madrid v B'celona	3-1
Celta v Hercules	1-2
Sporting v Sevilla	2-1
Betis v Osasuna	1-0
Valencia v At Madrid	1-0
Racing v L Palmas	0-0

HOLLAND

Ex R'dam v PSV	0-1
Sp R'dam v Groningen	3-3
Ajax v H Almelo	7-0
Sittard v Roda JC	2-1
D Bosch v GA Eagles	1-0
Maastricht v AZ'67	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	19	17	1	1	62	11	35
Ajax	20	16	0	4	85	21	32
Feyenoord	20	14	2	4	47	26	30
Den Bosch	21	10	6	5	34	19	26

FRANCE

Paris SG v Rennes	1-0
M'seilles v Metz	0-0
Bordeaux v Toulouse	1-1
Auxerre v Monaco	1-0
Laval v Lille	2-2
Lens v Sochaux	3-1
Nantes v Nancy	3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	31	20	9	2	59	25	49
Nantes	30	16	9	5	42	22	41
Bordeaux	30	15	10	5	43	34	40
Auxerre	31	14	8	9	37	29	36
Lens	31	13	9	9	47	39	35
Toulouse	32	14	6	12	50	40	34
Monaco	32	9	16	7	43	33	34

GREECE

Ap K'marias v Iraklis	1-0
O'piakos v P'raikos	4-0
Doxa v P'naikos	1-1
PAOK v Aris	1-0
Ethnikos v.OFI	2-3
Ap Athens v Larisa	1-2
P'chaiki v P'nios	1-0
AEK v Yannina	4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
P'naikos	23	15	5	3	47	21	35
Iraklis	23	11	7	5	27	15	29
Aris	23	10	9	4	29	19	29
AEK	23	11	6	6	33	21	28
OFI	23	12	4	7	31	23	28
P'nios	23	11	5	7	32	25	27

ITALY

Atalanta v Como	1-1
Avellino v S'doria	2-1
Bari v Torino	1-0
Inter v F'tina	2-0
Juventus v Napoli	1-1
Pisa v Milan	0-1
Udinese v Lecce	2-1
Verona v Roma	3-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juve	24	15	8	1	37	10	38
Roma	24	15	3	6	40	21	33
Napoli	24	9	11	4	27	18	29
Milan	24	9	10	5	22	18	28
Inter	24	10	7	7	32	27	27
Torino	24	8	9	7	24	20	25
F'tina	24	6	12	7	22	19	24
Verona	24	8	8	8	25	31	24

W. GERMANY

Bay Munich v D'dorf	2-3
Schalke v Cologne	3-0
Stuttgart v Nuremberg	3-1
Bremen v Bochum	0-0
Dortmund v K'lautern	4-2
(other matches postponed)	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bremen	26	17	6	3	71	36	40
Bayern Munich	26	16	4	6	56	28	36
M'gladbach	24	13	7	4	53	33	33
L'kusen	24	10	8	6	47	34	28
Hamburg	23	11	4	8	35	23	26
Stuttgart	25	10	6	9	45	38	26
Bochum	23	10	3	10	42	36	23
Mannheim	22	8	7	7	31	26	23
Ein F'furt	24	6	11	7	27	35	23
Uerdingen	22	9	5	8	33	49	23

ENGLISH FA CUP q-f: Brighton 0 Southampton 2, Luton 2 Everton 2 (replay Thursday). **Fifth round replay:** Bury 0 Watford 3 (Watford away to Liverpool in q-f on Wednesday). Playing today: Manchester United v West Ham.

Division 1: Aston Villa 1 Arsenal 4, Chelsea 1 Manchester City 0, Ipswich 1 Nottingham Forest 0, Leicester 2 Coventry 1, Liverpool 4 QPR 1, Sheffield Wednesday 5 Birmingham 1, Tottenham 5 West Bromwich 0. **Postponed:** Manchester United v Luton, Oxford v Everton, Watford v Southampton, West Ham v Newcastle.

Division 2: Bradford 3 Blackburn 2, Crystal Palace 2 Middlesbrough 1, Grimsby 1 Oldham 4, Leeds 2 Huddersfield 0, Millwall 3 Sheffield United 0, Portsmouth 1 Barnsley 1, Shrewsbury 2 Fulham 2, Stoke 0 Hull 1, Sunderland 1 Charlton 2, Wimbledon 2 Norwich 1. **Postponed:** Carlisle v Brighton.

Division 3: Bolton 2 Reading 0, Bournemouth 1 Cardiff 1, Bristol Rovers 1 Plymouth 2, Chesterfield 0 Bristol City 0, Gillingham 2 Blackpool 2, Newport 1 Lincoln 2, Notts County 0 Derby 3, Swansea 2 Brentford 0, Walsall 1 Doncaster 0, Wolverhampton 0 Rotherham 0. **Postponed:** Wigan v Bury.

Division 4: Aldershot 1 Halifax 2, Burnley 1 Chester 0, Exeter 2 Colchester 2, Hereford 3 Northampton 0, Mansfield 2 Cambridge 0, Peterborough 3 Hartlepool 1, Preston 1 Crewe 2, Rochdale 1 Swindon 2, Scunthorpe 2 Orient 2, Wrexham 1 Port Vale 3, Stockport 1 Torquay 1, Tranmere 1 Southend 1.

SCOTTISH FA CUP q-f: Dundee 2 Aberdeen 2, Hibernian 4 Celtic 3, Motherwell 0 Dundee United 1. Playing today: Hearts v St Mirren.

Division 1: Airdrieonians 4 Brechin 2, Alloa 0 Falkirk 2, Ayr 2 Clyde 0, East Fife 3 Forfar 0, Hamilton 3 Kilmarnock 2, Montrose 1 Morton 1, Partick 1 Dumbarton 2.

Division 2: Berwick 1 Albion 2, Dunfermline 0 Queen's Park 0, East Stirling 2 Stenhousemuir 0, Meadowbank 4 Stirling 1, Queen of South 3 Cowdenbeath 0, St Johnstone 1 Raith 3, Stranraer 1 Arbroath 5.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Ards 0 Newry 1, Ballymena 0 Portadown 1, Carrick 0 Crusaders 1, Cliftonville 3 Larne 1, Distillery 2 Bangor 1, Glenavon 0 Coleraine 1, Glentoran 2 Linfield 3.

EAST GERMANY: Hansa Rostock 2 Dynamo Dresden 1, 1FC Magdeburg 0 Dynamo Berlin, Wismut Aue 1 Brandenburg 0. **Postponed:** Union Berlin v Rot Weiss Erfurt, Stahl Riesa v Sachsenring Zwickau, Jena v Frankfurt-on-Oder, Karl Marx Stadt v Leipzig.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
D Berlin	16	9	5	2	27	17	23
D Dresden	16	7	6	3	27	21	20
Jena	14	5	7	2	21	11	17
Lokomotiv	15	7	3	5	19	13	17
Union B	15	6	4	5	21	18	16
B'burg	16	6	4	6	17	17	16

AFRICAN Nations Cup, Group 1 in Alexandria: Algeria 0 Morocco 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Algeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Zambia	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

HUNGARY: Siofok 2 Tatabanya 2, Honved 5 MTK VM 5, Pecs 2 Szombathely 1, Zalaegerszeg 0 Bp Volan 0, Csepel 2 Ferencvaros 1, Debrecen 0 U Dozsa 3, Bekescsaba 1 Videoton 2, Vasas 3 Raba 5.

"See that, boss? I can hardly believe it. We nearly scored."

SHOCK LOSS FOR UNITED IN THE CUP

MANCHESTER UNITED shattered their millions of fans world-wide when they were dumped from the English FA Cup in the fifth round — losing 2-0 to West Ham at Old Trafford.

After getting a merited 1-1 draw in the first match at Upton Park, United were expected to cruise through the replay in Manchester without too much difficulty.

It was not to be. The Hammers scored twice with a first half header from Geoff Pike and a second half penalty kick by Ray Stewart.

The popular Manchester club now face the prospect of a season without a major trophy on the sideboard.

The Red Devils have dominated the first division championship for most of the season but recent lapses have allowed Everton to climb on top of them to become outright favourites for the League title.

Now comes the more bitter blow — elimination from the Cup on their own ground.

In defence of United, it should be mentioned that their midfield dynamo and skipper Bryan Robson was unable to play due to a dislocated shoulder, yet the club has a wealth of talented reserves and one man's absence should not bring disaster.

Towards the end of the replay at Old Trafford, Frank McAvennie was unlucky not to make the score 3-0 when his shot struck the post.

Pike's opening goal in 18 minutes was a superbly guided header after a corner kick. Stewart's penalty followed a foul on Alvin Martin by Frank Stapleton.

Now West Ham go on, full of confidence, to face Sheffield Wednesday in Tuesday's quarter-final at Hillsborough.

BORG, BECKER, NOW BRADY!

MONACO, the tax haven embraced by tennis greats like Bjorn Borg and Boris Becker, could be the new home for Irish international Liam Brady of Inter Milan.

Brady, whose contract with the Italian club ends in a few months, plans to buy a house in Monaco where the asking price of at least $500,000 will be no deterrent. In six years in Italian football, Brady has accumulated enormous wealth.

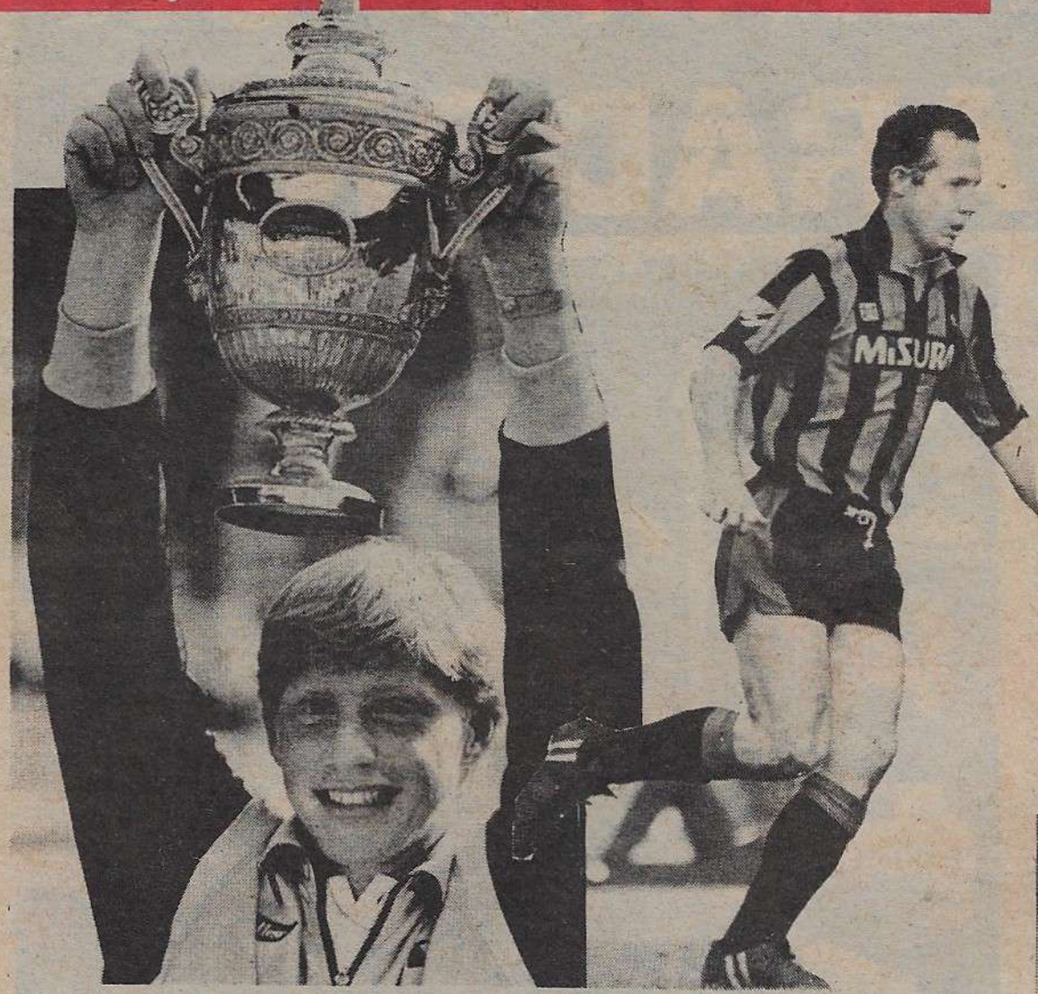
One English manager who is unhappy about Brady's Monaco plan is Arsenal's Don Howe.

Howe wants the Irish midfielder to return to Highbury for the 1986-87 season where a new-look young Arsenal side could be built around him.

But it doesn't look as if Howe will sign Brady, who said recently: "I would like to play another couple of years in Italy. With taxes low and wages high in comparison to England, wouldn't any player in his right mind?"

Since leaving Arsenal to join Juventus, Brady has shrewdly handled his business affairs, coining big cash in moves to Sampdoria and Inter Milan.

No matter how high Arsenal bid, there seems little chance of Liam Brady returning to English football.



BORIS BECKER (left) and LIAM BRADY (right) have both made Monaco their new homes. There are 'taxing reasons' for it.

URUGUAY THREAT IN CUP

URUGUAY has more players with foreign clubs than any other nation — but this doesn't seem to inhibit the Uruguayans in international matches.

Uruguay's coach Omar Borras is convinced he has the team to win the 1986 World Cup and many people believe him.

Despite being such a small country, Uruguay has a great track record in international competition.

They have won the World Cup twice (1930 and 1950), the Olympic Games twice (1924 and 1928) and have been champions of South America on 10 occasions.

Uruguay has called up a squad of 21 to train for this year's Cup trip to Mexico and 10 of those selected play for foreign clubs. Penarol, traditional leaders of Uruguayan football, supply six of the 21.

URUGUAY's trump card RUBEN PAZ.

VALENCIA CAPTURE ALFREDO

ALFREDO DI STEFANO, perhaps the greatest player the world has ever seen, has quit his homeland, Argentina, to settle once again Spain.

Di Stefano is coach of Valencia.

It is Valencia's aim to challenge the might of Real Madrid and Barcelona and they believe Di Stefano is just the man to inspire such success.

His bosses in Buenos Aires did not share that optimism and Boca Juniors decided to sack the great man.

(left) Alfredo Di Stefano pictured in his Real Madrid days with the great Ferenc Puskas. Di Stefano has taken over as coach of Valencia.

REAL BID FOR RIVAL COACH

REAL MADRID have search the world for a new coach but the man they really want is on their own doorstep.

Luis Aragones, coach of neighbours and rivals Atletico Madrid, will be offered a huge salary to switch from one club in the city to the other.

Some months ago, when Real persuaded Atletico's Mexican star Hugo Sanchez to sign for Real, they hoped Aragones would also switch as part of the deal.

Since joining Real, Sanchez has been acting as intermediary in negotiations and it seems it is only a matter of time before Aragones joins Real.

Incidentally, Welshman John Toshack is now one of the most sought-after coaches in Spain.

Since being appointed coach of Real Sociedad in San Sebastian, Toshack's team has improved dramatically.

"And how do you feel after watching your side lose 10-0 in the Cup?"

PETER SHILTON (Below) is tipped to be moving to Liverpool at the end of the season.

NO DIETING IN MEXICAN PRISONS!

KEVIN KEEGAN's warning that British Soccer thugs would be jailed without food if they misbehaved in Mexico at the World Cup have upset Mexican authorities.

Keegan produced his remarkable statement on English TV when he returned from his fact-finding trip to Mexico.

A Mexican prison official said: "Mr Keegan's got things wrong. We DO feed prisoners but also allow relations to bring in food.

"But we will treat football hooligans severely. We do not recommend Mexican prisons!"

KEVIN KEEGAN

SPANISH club La Coruna are set to buy winger Louie Donowa from England's Norwich City.

Donowa has not been happy at Norwich since last season's match at Liverpool when he had a fight with one of his own players.

ZIBBY BONIEK, involved in crazy results.

STRANGE results from the Polish national team in two matches in Argentina.

The Poles were beaten by the extraordinary score of 5-4 by River Plate and then had a win, 1-0, against Boca Juniors.

WHEN Spurs toured Australia a few months ago, one of their better players was little Scotsman Ally Dick, who, in one match, gave Gerry Gomez a terrible runaround at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Now it seems the magic has deserted Ally. He is about to be sold by Spurs an there will be no shortage of potential buyers.

Hibernian and Celtic would gladly take the former Stirling winger back to Scotland.

Dick is only 20. He first burst into the headlines five years ago when he turned in a super show for Scotland Schoolboys against England at Wembley.

At that time, every English first division club sought Ally's signature but Spurs pipped them all.

In the past three years, Ally Dick has played only 17 first team matches for the London club.

Celtic made two offers for the player last season but were turned down.